Hafa Adai!

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START OF SPRING

Northern Marianas College began its spring 2019 semester yesterday, welcoming more than 1,100 students to the campus. Registration for the current semester is continuing. Students were greeted by NMC faculty and staff and mini carnival activities. In addition to their classes, throughout the first two weeks of the semester, the students will be able to join campus clubs, participate in leadership opportunities, obtain free health screenings, and participate in other student activities. For more information about NMC's academic programs and services, visit www.marianas.edu or email oar@marianas.edu.

DPS alert for missing person

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is asking for the public's help in locating a Korean male who went missing over a month ago.

DPS is asking anyone who may have information about Ham Sung Dai, a 45-year-old Korean male, to contact the police immediately at 911.

According to the department, Dai was last seen at 3:30pm on Feb 14. He was last seen checking into his hotel.

Dai is approximately 5'6" tall and weighs between 160 to 170 lbs.

He was last seen wearing a gray T-shirt, a pair of blue jeans, and a pair of white running shoes.

Over 10 cold cases remain unsolved in the CNMI and the department said it continues to welcome leads that could pos-

See DPS on **Page 4**

355 H-2B Filipino workers OK'd in Guam

HAGÅTÑA, Guam— Three contractors have recently been approved to bring 97 H-2B visa workers from the Philippines to Guam, while another was allowed to add a second project to their application and use their existing 258 H-2B workers for the second project in Guam.

The approvals come even after the Philippines was removed from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's list of countries approved for H-2B labor.

The Philippines was removed from the list of approved countries in January, creating uncertainty in the contractor community in sourcing workers from the country.

With the news of the approvals, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero renewed her call for contractors to petition for H-2B workers if they are unable to source skilled workers in Guam.

"The H-2B denials in

See H-2B on **Page 4**

Proposals sought for Marpi property

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is soliciting bids to operate the former Mariana Resort and Spa.

DPL has opened up bids for a notice of intent to solicit award for a temporary operating agreement of the Mariana Resort facility. The TOA for the Marpi property includes a hotel, villas, go-kart race track, and an 18-hole golf course.

The administration, through DPL, is soliciting for sealed proposals from firms or anybody that would be interested in temporarily managing and operating the facility. The deadline for submission is on April 12, Friday, at 10am.

Notice of intent packages—instruction and information packets—are now available

See MARPI on **Page 4**

Future plan is build a $15M terminal on Tinian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Part of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's future plan is to build a $15-million international terminal at the Tinian International Airport to accommodate direct flights from Asia.

This will allow CPA Tinian to have expanded arrival and departure areas to accommodate offices for the U.S. Customs Border Patrol and U.S. Transportation Security Administration, along with the CNMI regulatory agencies.

At the same time, CPA Tinian will be able separate the commuter passengers from the international passengers, says CPA's Strategic Planning

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
The name of the era of Japan's soon-to-be-emperor Naruhito will be "Reiwa."

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ASIA
A Vietnamese woman pleads guilty to a lesser charge in the killing of Kim Jong Nam.

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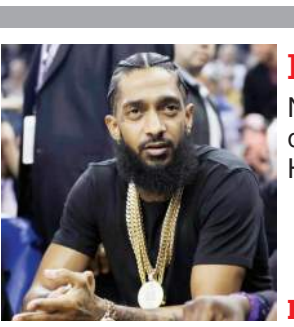

LIFE & STYLE
Nipsey Hussle has died, authorities said. He was 33.

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Local

NMI budget proposal expected this week

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Torres administration is set to submit to the Legislature this week its proposed budget for the operations of the CNMI government in fiscal year 2020, which begins on Oct. 1 this year.

The Department of Finance is expected to submit a revised report on the estimated budgetary resources after the second quarter of fiscal year 2019 ended last Sunday.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista told *Saipan Tribune* that the administration has until May 1 to submit the proposed budget to the Legislature since this is a new administration.

"However, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios will submit it within the next two days," he added.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), in separate messages to *Saipan Tribune*, supported the administration's statement.

"They [administration] have until May 1 to submit the proposed budget but I've heard it should be ready sooner," said Attao.

"They have the option to submit the budget proposal no later than May 1, but I was advised that it could be submitted before then," added Blanco.

Torres, in a letter to Attao and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), informed the Legislature of a proportionate reduction of 15 percent in the allotment authority of all three branches of government per quarter.

Torres added that he explained in a separate letter that revenue forecasts for fiscal year 2019 was lower than they had originally projected, a reduction of 4.7 percent, largely due to Super Typhoon Yutu that crippled the CNMI tourism industry for almost three months.

"However, steeper across-the-board reduction of allotment authority is necessary to take into account the [CNMI's] fixed annual obligation to its bondholders and the minimum annual payment of $44 million to the Northern Mariana Islands Settlement Fund," Torres said.

"If the Executive Branch were to bear the brunt of the reduction of revenue collection in fiscal year 2019, the operation of entire programs, if not agencies, will likely be suspended until the revenue forecast improves."

He added that the across-the-board reduction is an effective fiscal tool as provided under the Planning and Budgeting Act that would ensure the government would not incur an operating deficit by the end of fiscal year 2019.

"As stated, Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I remain optimistic that, as the year progresses, our revenues will rebound. Until such time, based on the numbers we have provided you and the assessment of acting Finance secretary [David Atalig], we are duty-bound to adhere to our legal obligation to maintain fiscal discipline and responsibility," Torres said.

ORAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated sixth left, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, seated seventh left, joins various members of the community after signing the proclamation declaring April as Oral Cancer Awareness Month yesterday.
JON PEREZ

MHS to represent the CNMI at Guam STEM fair

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School team would be representing the CNMI and competing against Guam on who gets to represent the region at the 2019 Island Sustainability Conference.

This came about after the Public School System concluded its annual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fair over the weekend at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School.

MHS also bested Dr. Rita H. Inos High School on Rota in the Green Dream Competition.

The MHS team consists of team staple Ian Cataluna, John Oh, Katherin C. Illahi, Microl Chen, and Liu Gengyan. They bested RHI, the only other team in the competition, which consisted of Jeni Costales, Jennylyn Candia, Frederica Manglona, Roque Aldabe, and Angelo Lucero.

From right, Saipan Southern High School teacher and team adviser Dora Miura poses with contestants Ruth Park and Iris Lee as they get their first place prize Saturday afternoon. ERWIN ENCINARES

"We have been competing [in Guam] for the past three years and we are very excited to represent the CNMI [for a fourth time]," said MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera.

This year's challenge was to design a water catchment system, keeping in mind the scarcity of fresh water on islands.

"Competitions like STEM really makes learning in the classroom more meaningful for [the students], so that's why we highly encourage our students to join and encourage our teachers to advise. …They put a level of excellence in it that is necessary for competition and that brings out the best [in them]," Cabrera said.

SSHS bags first place in 9th to 12th grade bracket

Saipan Southern High School's Iris Lee was awarded first place in the general sciences division, with her project relating to obesity ratings on Saipan as age increases.

"We wanted to raise awareness how bad obesity is on Saipan by research," she said, adding that it was her first time to join the competition. She said she was astounded to win the competition with her teammates, Ruth Park and Pearl Choi.

"We entered this competition just for our participation in class and we didn't expect to win the competition," Park said. "Our goal was just to win either second or third, but we didn't know we would actually win first place."

SSHS adviser Dora Miura noted that this was the second time a student of hers joined the STEM Fair. Her students previously garnered second and third places.

"I am proud of them. I am always proud of them, even those who did not make it into the placing," she said, adding that Lee's project was done for her pre-calculus class.

Following Lee in the general sciences division was MHS' Kate Ishida for second place while Jeffrey Seo, also from MHS, garnered third.

MHS' Cataluna was awarded third place in the 9th to 12th grade research division while Mt. Carmel School's Casey Pathil got second place and Agape Christian School's Sho Yu Du won first place.

Hopwood Middle School's Jae Yun Jung garnered first place for the 6th to 8th grade division while Lynzey Green, also from the same school, garnered second. Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's John Anthony Tobongbanua placed third in the division.

Brilliant Star Montessori's Jennifer Hart garnered first place in the 3rd to 5th grade division while Oleai Elementary School's Dwayne Tabhan placed second and Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's Keeff Matondo placed third.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's Princess Gin Mahusay garnered first place in the Kindergarten to 2nd grade division while Isla Montessori School's Oliver Pauling garnered second and Garapan Elementary School's Neil Cunanan placed third.

4 middle schools face off in junior mock trial

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Four middle schools in the CNMI squared off at the14th annual Junior Mock Trial hosted by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council last Saturday at the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

The participating schools were Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, Rota Junior Senior High School, and Tinian Junior Senior High School.

They argued the fictitious case of an individual who got injured on a hike in the case of *Justin Pangelinan vs. Forensi-Tech, Inc.* This was the same case that was argued during the annual mock trial competition last month where Marianas High School bested four other high schools.

During last Saturday's event, the schools were paired up over two rounds, which were presided by a judge. This year's judges were Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

During cross examination, the middle school students from MCS and Rota Junior Senior High School appeared nervous but Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho encouraged the students and offered guidance when needed.

Camacho gave the students advice on the do's and don'ts when questioning a direct witness and when cross-examining the witness.

The annual Junior Mock Trial is non-competitive and is a program to season middle school students for the competitive mock trial competition.

The CNMI Junior High Mock Trial is also a signature program of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council where middle school students can learn about the law and standard courtroom procedures. Though the program is non-competitive, the students were recognized for their roles as attorneys or witnesses.

Participating Junior Mock Trial middle schoolers pose for a photo last Saturday after the event. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

OPA on Tinian, Rota to notarize financial disclosure statements

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on April 16, 2019, and on Tinian on April 17, 2019, to notarize and accept filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 9am to 3pm on Tuesday, April 16.

Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Department of Commerce Office from 9am to 3:30pm on Wednesday, April 17.

All filers—all appointed and elected Commonwealth officials, boards, councils or task force members or directors, commissioners, executive directors including acting (in excess of 90 days) executive director, managing directors, deputy directors, administrators, or similar positions on your board, council, commission, task force or agency—are reminded to bring with them some form of valid photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services.

For any inquiries, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. ***(PR)***

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More than 42K diagnosed with oral cancer in US

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Commonwealth Cancer Association president Bo Palacios, left, looks on as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold O. Palacios sign the proclamation declaring April as Oral Cancer Awareness Month.

More than 42,000 people are diagnosed with oral cancer in the U.S. mainland while at least 100 are diagnosed in the CNMI, according to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

"It's never an easy topic to talk about," said CCA president Bo Palacios, who reported that since the CCA started keeping record in 2010, there had been 120 incidences in the CNMI so far.

"Between oral and breast cancer, there are usually one or two top incidences of cancer in the CNMI, but it is oral cancer that is especially deadly," Palacios said. "Of the 120 people diagnosed since 2010, almost 60 percent have succumbed to the disease."

Palacios presented the facts to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as they prepared to sign the document declaring April as the National Oral Cancer Awareness Month.

"The statistics are grim, but we are approaching it at every angle," Palacios added.

Thirty-six-year-old oral cancer survivor Melvin T. Sakisat was diagnosed with oral cancer at the age of 34. He is now fully recovered and had to quit chewing betel nut.

"…We say it is traditional, part of our culture. But I believe we have to stop, especially our youth," he said. "I still see a lot of minors chewing."

In a separate interview, Sakisat said he wishes to educate people about oral cancer. Sakisat, who started chewing at the age of 12, has not chewed betel nut since 2013.

"I want people to know that they should avoid chewing [betel nut] with tobacco," he said. "I urge everyone out there, especially young children, to quit chewing. If you are thinking of trying out chewing to look good in front of your friends, don't."

"Chemotherapy is not fun," he added.

DPS

From Page 1

sibly result in the closure of these cases.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, a few of the high-profile missing person cases that have gone cold include the disappearance of former Office of the Public Defender lawyer Jamal Saleh, siblings Faloma and Maleina Luhk, Japanese sisters Natsuki and Chinatsu Yamada, and more.

Saleh was reported missing on Oct 4, 2017. DPS reported that Saleh went for a walk at 1:30am on Oct. 3 2017, and has not been heard of since.

The Luhk siblings went missing on May 25, 2011, near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo. The sisters were 9 and 10 years old when they went missing and their disappearance resulted in the most extensive islandwide search in the CNMI's history, with the FBI, along with local law enforcers and civilian volunteers, taking part.

The Yamada sisters went missing in June 2014 during a trip to Saipan. Since then, Hideki and Kozue Yamada, the parents of the missing women, have been constantly returning to get an update on the case of their missing daughters.

Individuals who may have leads on any of the unsolved cases of the CNMI are urged to contact DPS or CNMI Crime Stoppers.

TINIAN

From Page 1

for CNMI Air and Seaports for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The international terminal project is among the many projects outlined in CPA's Strategic Planning report issued yesterday.

CPA estimates it will take three years to begin the $15-million project and that its funding source is pending.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said the Strategic Planning outlines what the staff and management have identified as priorities that CPA will pursue over the next four years.

"It is designed as a framework to focus our efforts and resources as we work to improve our infrastructure and our delivery of services to the traveling public, our industry partners and the people of the Commonwealth in general," said Tenorio in a statement.

CNMI ports, he said, are critical to the growth of the economy.

"We want this strategic plan to be a reflection of the collective desire of our policy makers, our industry partners and the people of the CNMI," Tenorio said.

The executive director invited input and dialogue from policy makers and industry partners such as the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the NMI, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, to help fine-tune their action plan to best meet the overall goals, objectives and needs of the CNMI's tourism industry.

MARPI

From Page 1

and can be picked up at the DPL office from 7:30am to 4:30pm, from Mondays to Fridays. DPL will be charging 0.50 cents per page if a hard copy is requested.

The NOI packet can also be downloaded at the DPL website, www.dpl.gov.mp, or can be sent through email to those that would be interested, at no extra cost.

Interested firms that have questions about the more than 50,000-square-meter property can contact DPL.

The contents of the NOI packet must be received by DPL no later than 4:30pm (ChST) on April 8, Monday.

Questions and the NOI packet can be submitted in writing via snail mail, email, or facsimile and must be addressed to acting DPL secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo at the DPL mailing box at P.O. Box 500380 Saipan, MP 96950 with telephone numbers (670) 234375 to 53 or fax (670) 2343755 and email marian-net@spl.gov.mp.

DPL, which may accept or reject proposals, will summarize its response to the questions and will share it to all those that would submit proposals in a question-and-answer format.

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., owned by the Kitami family, used to lease and operate the facilities of the Marpi property that also included a 50-meter swimming pool and baseball field. Mariana Resort and Spa shut down last year after 40 years of operation.

The lease on the property was up for renewal but Kan Pacific did not submit a proposal to renew their lease. DPL put out a request for proposal and closed it in 2016. Only Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC submitted a bid and DPL issued a notice of intent to award.

The NOI had a couple of things that were listed that IPI needed to satisfy but negotiations broke down between them and DPL. During those negotiations, DPL had issued extensions to Kan Pacific after their lease expired that ended on Sept. 30 last year.

H-2B

From Page 1

2017 and the ban placed on the Philippines created a shortage of labor [in] Guam, driving up the price of construction and halting many projects on our island," said Leon Guerrero. "As I've told the White House, the U.S. Congress, the Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services during my trip to [Washington,] D.C. last month, every construction project [in] Guam is tied to the military buildup. Our military families stationed [in] Guam travel the same roads, visit the same malls and eat at the same restaurants. They enjoy Guam the way we all enjoy Guam, locals and tourists alike. We are one community and the federal government needs to recognize this. I continue to encourage contractors to make a case for listing projects as buildup-related and hopeful that more approvals will be forthcoming."

Positive developments

With 858 workers currently on island and 629 workers pending arrival, the governor is optimistic that the trend of approvals will continue.

Removal of the Philippines from the H-2B list resulted in an increased layer of federal scrutiny to meet the requirement that the employment of the workers be in the U.S. interest, but employers have been successful in meeting USCIS requirements and securing approvals, with the National Defense Authorization Act exemption being a major contributing factor.

The NDAA exemption allows for H-2B workers in Guam so long as petitions are being made for military-related projects and for public and private sector projects when properly justified. Projects related to the airport, roads, hotel construction/renovation and utilities have been approved in recent months.

Last week, USCIS approved an application for 258 H-2B workers for a multi-family housing (apartments/condominiums) project. This positive development should give employers more confidence in their efforts to petition for H-2B workers in completing projects.

David Dell'Isola director of the Guam Department of Labor, said, "As employers successfully deploy their H-2B workers, these employers are encouraged to use their active projects as training grounds for local workers and build capacity in the local workforce."

DOL's process for H-2B workers helps ensure that qualified and skilled available U.S. workers are first offered jobs, both locally and nationally, before certification is granted for foreign H-2B workers. Interested employers may consult with Guam DOL's Alien Labor Division on H-2B issues and with the department's America's Job Center on how to engage in registered apprenticeships and other job training programs.

For more information on apprenticeship and job training programs, call the Alien Labor Division at 475-8005 or 475-8013, or the American Job Center at 475-7000. ***(PR)***

CNMI resident graduates from UK culinary school

A former Marianas High School student completed last week his second course at a prestigious culinary school in the United Kingdom.

Former MHS student Earl Bordon completed his second course—a patisserie course—at the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu in London last March 22, 2019, on the heels of the culinary management distinction course he finished last Dec. 14, 2018.

Bordon now holds diplomas for both courses.

He told Saipan Tribune that studying culinary arts in London exposes him to the European culinary scene. "I decided to study abroad in London because it is one of the biggest food capital in the world. The food industry here is huge and one of the best," he said in an email message.

He chose to study at the Le Cordon Bleu "because it is one of the oldest and first culinary institutes in Europe. The school focuses heavily on French cuisine and pastry, which I was interested in. It is internationally recognized."

He noted, though, that returning to Saipan has yet to be decided.

"If I find a job at the U.K. or U.S. before my student visa expires, I'll be working right away. But if not, I'll be coming home to spend time with my family and probably work," he said.

Bordon aims to work as a pastry cook either in the U.S. mainland, the U.K., or on Saipan and eventually have his own establishment.

"I want to gain more experience in my field and use my acquired knowledge. In the future I want to start a small home business and potentially open a pastry shop," he said.

Bordon's father, Jing Bordon, said in a brief interview with Saipan Tribune that having sent his eldest son to an institute such as Le Cordon Bleu is one of his proudest achievements.

"It's very rewarding to have a son that works in such a prestigious school that is impossible for us to afford," he said.

According to Jing, Earl Bordon's tuition was covered by a scholarship awarded to him by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce as well as three years' worth of savings. Earl Bordon's two siblings also helped.

The struggle to obtain the tuition funds, according to Jing Bordon, was also a life lesson for his son.

"My son had the essence of hard work instilled into him. His persistence and his faith is what really allowed him to pursue his dreams," he said. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Vietnam-based lawyer wants Hillbroom lawsuit dismissed

Vietnam-based lawyer Barry J. Israel has re-filed his motion for the federal court to dismiss a legal malpractice lawsuit filed against him by Junior Larry Hillbroom.

Israel, through counsel Theodore W. Frank, asserted that the U.S. District Court for the NMI should dismiss the lawsuit based on Hillbroom's stated decision that he no longer wants to proceed with the case.

Alternatively, Israel asked the court to hold a hearing with Hillbroom on this issue as soon as possible.

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan, who is also a co-defendant in the lawsuit, joined in Israel's motion.

Israel earlier filed the same motion to dismiss but as an emergency, based on the same grounds. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied that motion last month, saying it fails to comply with the court's local rule, that it contains no statement certifying Israel's efforts to resolve the dispute without court action.

Manglona, however, allowed the lawyer to re-file the motion.

In re-filing the motion to dismiss, Frank said Hillbroom had already instructed his lawyer to drop the lawsuit as early as Feb. 2, 2009, but his counsel has not yet comply with that instruction.

Frank said that counsels for Israel and Hillbroom conferred via telephone last March 14, about the issues raised in the emergency motion.

Frank said Hillbroom's counsel refused to dismiss the court action, stating that Hillbroom had instructed them to "proceed" with the action.

Frank said Hillbroom's counsel refused to provide proof of Hillbroom's instruction to "proceed" with the action in light of plaintiff's multiple statements to Lujan to the contrary.

Hillbroom's deposition of Israel is set to begin May 7, 2019 in Guam.

Frank said if Hillbroom's intention is to dismiss this action and he has instructed his counsel to do so, it would work a great injustice against both Hillbroom and Israel.

Frank said Hillbroom expressed to Lujan that he needs to focus on his drug issues and his Palau criminal case and wants to get out of this civil action.

"Israel will have to travel to Guam and expend both his and plaintiff's money to attend his deposition, all wasteful and idle acts if plaintiff has already determined to dismiss this action and given his counsel instructions to do so," Frank said.

In his lawsuit, Hillbroom alleged that Israel and Lujan conspired with a former trustee to inflate their attorneys' contingency fee when the fortune of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in Superior Court.

Israel and Lujan served as counsel for Hillbroom in the probate matter.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. His body was never recovered. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

Roy Reyes passes PS exam

Roy P. Reyes, professional engineer and one of the owners of Pacific Engineering Group and Services, LLC, has recently passed the Professional Surveyor Exam of the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors through the Nevada Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

With the passing of the PS exam, Reyes is poised to achieve dual licensure status as a professional surveyor and engineer.

He achieved his professional engineering credentials in 2004 after having previously passed the Fundamentals of Engineering and Fundamentals of Surveying Exams as well as the Professional Engineering exam.

Reyes holds a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering, and is a magna cum laude graduate of Oregon State University (1998), Corvallis, Oregon.

Among others, he is certified by the Guam NAVFAC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in construction quality management.

He worked with the CNMI Department of Public Works from 1999 to 2005, starting as a civil engineer and transitioning to senior design engineer.

His experiences include contract administration for Federal Highway Administration projects, identification and prioritization of highways, and allocating design and construction funds from FHWA grants.

He was also involved in the right-of-way acquisition planning for anticipated projects and development of route numbering for the CNMI. He subsequently worked for Jacobs Engineering Group's branch in Las Vegas, Nevada until 2009 as a project engineer, primarily designing county and city streets.

Since then, he has been serving the CNMI through private practice for a total of over 20 years of experience. ***(PR)***

Guam master carver works wood furnished by Marines

Wood carving has been practiced in the Pacific for millennia. In Guam, there are only a few master carvers who still practice this cultural art form.

In its small part, the U.S. Marine Corps, in conjunction with the Department of Chamorro Affairs, have identified the wood from areas where the new Marine Corps base in Guam is being built, and staged it, so cultural carving practitioners can select pieces they want to use for their craft.

Marine Corps Activity Guam sat down with one of them, master carver Robert Taitano Sr., to delve into its history on the island, its cultural ties to the Chamorro people and what wood carving means to him.

The practice of carving started over 45 years ago for Taitano. Fueled by a love for the art, he taught himself how to carve and began completing small projects for his home. Visitors would see his creations, admire his craftsmanship, and eventually request pieces to be made for their own homes. Soon after, Taitano began taking more requests from family and friends. His passion would turn into a world-renowned art form that has touched many different people in distant lands, to include a U.S. President.

"I'm very proud when I was given my statue for being a master carver downtown, and also that a President of the United States (Bill Clinton) has two chairs that I carved for him in the White House," Taitano said.

Despite the many accolades he has received as a master carver, none holds more meaning to him than passing on the tradition to his son. Robert Jr. became serious about carving five years ago and his father could not be prouder.

Keeping it in the family is important, according to Taitano. However, he also recognizes the importance of passing on his knowledge to anyone willing to learn. Locally, the father and son duo have started a couple of programs to grow the ancient art.

Currently they run a program through the Department of Corrections teaching the incarcerated how to carve wood using native *ifit* wood. They also run a program where they host three-day workshops for children interested in continuing the tradition.

"They want to make something for their mama, something for their auntie. They are very excited," said Robert Jr. with a smile, remembering the children's enthusiasm.

According to Taitano, a desire to learn is equally as important as the type of wood. Native *ifit* wood is the preferred medium for the master carver. It is a very dense, heavy and hard wood, which makes it a favorite of carvers. *Ifit* wood does not crack or break easily, but it is

increasingly difficult to come by. Finding trees suitable for carving usually requires an intense hike and the wood itself can be very heavy to lift.

"It's so hard for me to go into the boonies, by the cliff line, and carry it out. This [turnover] is going to help us big time," said Taitano, referencing a program by which carvers can receive wood from the area where the new Marine Corps Base is being built.

The Marines hold a special place in Guam's history, and take the role of cultural and historical preservation as a sacred duty. Helping enhance the local economy and bolster cultural arts is one of the initiatives the Marines Corps is focused on.

"Getting this wood is going to make it easier for us to get all our orders done. We can donate more items as well, since we have more wood," Taitano said.

Most, when watching them work with chisel and mallet will be amazed. The Marines remain committed to this endeavor working with carvers, artisans, and future students in the years to come. ***(Kelly Rodriguez)***

Hyatt golf tourney gets $3,000 in-kind donation

Marianas Variety joins the 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic of Hyatt Regency Saipan as a platinum sponsor with a $3,000 media in-kind donation.

Marianas Variety president and publisher Laila Younis-Boyer presented Hyatt with a donation of media coverage. In addition to advertisement, *Marianas Variety* will exclusively provide a newspaper insert featuring the Hyatt Regency Saipan 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic highlights, sponsors, event partners and beneficiaries.

The donation will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

"It is a great privilege to work with *Marianas Variety* and their amazing team for their continued support and valuable local and world media contributions," said Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant marketing communications manager Claudine Camacho.

From left, Marianas Variety HR assistant Tristine Ada, Marianas Variety sales director, Jeanette Sarabia, Marianas Variety sales account executive Noemi Borromeo, Marianas Variety president and puyblisher Laila Boyer, Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant marketing communications manager Claudine Camacho, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist Angel Mendoza, and executive administrative assistant Vanessa Palacios. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Younis-Boyer said: "Younis Art Studio, [the] parent company of *Marianas Variety*, has been a part of our community for over 45 years, and we take every opportunity to help keep the community thriving. We thank the golfers and other community organizations for contributions to a notable cause. We are thankful for the opportunity to continue to support the community through this event."

The 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2019, at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's west course.

Early bird registration is open until Friday, April 17, 2019, at 4pm for a rate of $100 per golfer.

For more information contact 234-1234 Ext. 26. ***(PR)***

...and a $3,000 media coverage donation from Sorensen Media Group – Power 99

Sorensen Media-Power 99 has signed up as a platinum sponsor for this year's Hyatt Regency Saipan 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic with a donation of media coverage valued at $3,000.

James Nelson, general manager Power 99, and DJ Spade will cover different angles of the tournament with live discussions with the 23rd Annual Charity golf committee directors highlighting an array of prizes, new partnering sponsors and the tournament's beneficiaries.

The donation from Sorensen Media Group – Power 99 will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

Nelson describes the Hyatt Regency Charity Golf Classic as one of the premiere golf events on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist Angel Mendoza, James Nelson, general manager Power 99, Spade Taitano, Power 99 DJ, executive administrative assistant Vanessa Palacios, and Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef Zenn Tomokane.

"For more than 20 years now, the Hyatt Regency Saipan continues to be a solid corporate citizen that reaches out to the community," Nelson said. "With the tournament proceeds going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI and other local non-profit organizations, we are happy to join the Hyatt Regency Charity Golf Classic as a sponsor."

Claudine Camacho, Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant marketing communication manager, said: "We are honored by the generosity of the Sorensen Media Group – Power 99 to help support us in our efforts to promote the 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic. With their support and the contributions of other partnering organizations, our tournament will continue to impact in our island community." ***(PR)***

Proclamation signing will kick off Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is inviting the public to take part in the proclamation signing ceremony to declare April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month on Friday, April 5, 2019, at 10am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The CNMI has been recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month since 2008 with annual campaigns that aim to raise public awareness on the issue and empower community members to engage in prevention throughout the year.

"Sexual Assault Awareness Month or SAAM is also about giving hope and support to victims and survivors, which is something we all can do that makes a difference," said Kiki I. Benjamin, NMCADSV program manager.

"Another thing we can do to influence others to prevent sexual violence is to practice consent in our daily lives which is so important and the foundation for this year's SAAM theme of 'I Ask,'" added Benjamin.

Benjamin also invites community members to take part in the SAAM events and activities scheduled throughout April including the Walk & Rolls Against Sexual Violence with the first one on Wednesday, April 10, starting at the Kagman High School campus, and on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, starting at the San Roque Elementary School campus. Both events will start at 5pm.

Next, the highly anticipated S.A.F.E. Jamboree will be on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 11am to 4pm at the Garapan Central Park. The event will feature activity centers including a bounce house and different types of arts and crafts. There will also be exhibits, music and dance performances, and raffle prizes for participants.

Note that more details on events and activities for Tinian and Rota will be shared and announced shortly.

In addition, tune in every Tuesday morning on KKMP on 92.1 FM starting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, to hear from professionals and community members talk about various topics related to SAAM.

For more information related to SAAM, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. If you or anyone you know is experiencing sexual violence or abuse, contact 911 for emergency assistance or the 24-Hour Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. ***(PR)***

Man allegedly chokes girlfriend over betel nut

A man was arrested last week for allegedly choking his girlfriend when she did not have a betel nut mix when he asked her for some.

Michael Cabrera Sanchez, 41, is being charged with strangulation as well as assault and battery, and disturbing the peace after he allegedly choked his girlfriend over betel nut mix or "chew."

Superior Court associate judge Joseph Camacho imposed a cash bail of $10,000 on Sanchez despite the objection of Sanchez's defense lawyer, Doug Hartig.

He said the bail should be reduced because Sanchez is indigent, is not a flight risk, and has no prior convictions.

The bail amount was retained at $10,000.

Camacho scheduled Sanchez for a preliminary hearing on April 3, 2019 at 9am and an arraignment on April 8 at 9am.

According to court information, police responded on Tuesday at 10am to an alleged domestic violence report at Lao Market in Chalan Kanoa

The victim told police that her boyfriend, Sanchez, had just woken up that morning and asked her for cigarette and betel nut. When she told him she had none, Sanchez allegedly got mad at her and choked her for about two to three seconds in front of their two children. The victim told police she was breathing but barely.

Following the incident, Sanchez allegedly threw a shoe in the victim's face when she said she'd call the police. The victim then went to Lao Market to call the police but Sanchez followed her and allegedly hung the phone up as the victim was talking to DPS dispatch.

The Lao Market manager told police that she heard the victim talking to DPS dispatch when Sanchez came in and grabbed the phone from her. The manager told police that she overheard Sanchez ask the victim, "Why are you calling the police, I was just asking for betel nut?"

Sanchez then left but the victim remained at the store. The manager said the police arrived after about five minutes. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Ex-IPI employee amends lawsuit; removes fraud claim

A former VIP services host of Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino has amended her lawsuit against the owner of the resort/casino in Garapan.

Shirline Loh, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is now suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for alleged violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act—unpaid minimum wage and unpaid overtime compensation, and conversion.

Loh asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold IPI liable to pay her the minimum wage and overtime compensation for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours each work week.

Loh wants a share of the tips that she accuses IPI of keeping for itself. She also demanded payment for liquidated and punitive damages, attorneys' fees and court costs.

Loh worked for IPI from Oct. 15, 2015, until August 2016, as a VIP services host.

According to Fitzgerald, IPI violated the provisions of the FLSA by failing to pay Loh the minimum wage and overtime compensation.

The lawyer said that IPI, through its staff Yuki Xia, did not give Loh her share of tips made by customers to be given to the VIP hosts, that IPI refused to give Loh her rightful share of the tips.

The court dismissed Loh's fraud claims last February. She did not sue IPI for fraud in the amended court action.

In dismissing the fraud claim, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said a mere expectation that Loh would get share of the tips, without some statement or action by Imperial Pacific to support that expectation, does not constitute fraud.

Manglona said when a party alleges fraud, it must "state with particularity the circumstances constituting" the fraud.

"Averments of fraud must be accompanied by the who, what, when, where, and how of the misconduct charged," said Manglona, citing precedent.

Manglona said a plaintiff must "set forth more than the neutral facts necessary to identify the transaction" and explain "what is false or misleading about a statement, and why it is false."

Loh's original claims were for violations of the FLSA and Minimum Wage Hour Act, and conversion and fraud.

IPI, through counsel Kelley M. Butcher, then moved the court to dismiss Loh's Commonwealth wage claim and claim for fraud.

Manglona, however, ruled that because amendment may not be futile, Loh is allowed to file an amended complaint to plead fraud.

In the same order, Manglona dismissed as untimely Loh's claims for violation of the Commonwealth's Minimum Wage and Hour Act.

The judge said because amendment would be futile, they are dismissed with prejudice. That means Loh cannot re-file the two claims.

At the hearing last Feb. 14 on IPI's motion to dismiss, Loh, through counsel Fitzgerald, conceded that her Commonwealth Minimum Wage and Court Act claims are untimely.

Manglona did not dismiss Loh's other two Minimum Wage Hour Act violation claims that are on the federal basis.

Loh is a citizen of Singapore. She currently resides there. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

$1K bail for alleged iPhone thief

A former convict has been arrested anew after admitting to stealing an iPhone. His bail was set at$1,000 cash.

Peterson Keju, 27, who served a seven-month prison term for assault and battery in 2017, was arrested again, this time for stealing an iPhone X worth $1,300 from the owner of Serene Restaurant in Garapan.

Keju is now facing charges of theft. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo set his bail at $1,000.

Keju was remanded back to the Department of Corrections following his bail hearing last Wednesday.

Keju is set for a preliminary hearing on April 4 at 1:30pm and is scheduled for an arraignment on April 8 at 9am.

According to court information, Keju was arrested after police reviewed surveillance footage acquired from Serene Restaurant. Keju was spotted stealing the iPhone after the victim reported the matter. Keju also admitted to the theft.

Last March 13, police responded to a call from Serene Restaurant owner Lin Lin Chen, who reported a theft that occurred in her establishment. It wasn't until the early hours of March 14, 2019, however, that surveillance footage from the restaurant was reviewed and a suspect was identified.

The surveillance footage spotted a man wearing a green T-shirt, black shorts, black- and blue-colored hat, and slippers take the phone from the cashier's counter where Chen had left it and slip it into his front pocket.

After acquiring the description of the suspect, police spotted a man at Winchell's Susupe that fit the description. The man spotted was later identified as Keju. Keju was immediately remanded to DOC.

At DOC, Keju admitted to stealing the cellphone and told police that he sold the phone to a man named Ed, who was reportedly homeless but knew how to unlock phones.

According to CNMI law, if the value of the property is at least $250 but less than $20,000, theft is punishable by up to five years imprisonment. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev 1.

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev.1 , Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 26, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Zoning Board

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. 670-234-9661, FAX 234-9666
E-mail ZoningBoard@zoning.gov.mp

Mariano Taitano, Treasurer
Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Secretary
Patrick Reyes, Member

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETINGS FOR SLL 20-25, NUISANCE ABATEMENT & BLIGHTED PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ACT OF 2018

The Zoning Office will be conducting several Public Outreach and Education Awareness meetings at specified locations around the island with community members, businesses, developers, property-owners, or any interested members of the general public. The first meeting to be held at the **Dandan Middle School on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 5:30pm.**

These meetings are intended to engage the public and discuss **SLL 20-25 Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2018.**

The scheduled public outreach meetings within targeted villages are as follows:

DATE	PLACE	TIME
March 12, 2019 – Tues.	Dandan Middle School cafeteria, Dandan	5:30pm
March 14, 2019 – Thurs.	Saipan Southern High School cafeteria, Koblerville	5:30pm
March 19, 2019 – Tues.	Kagman High School cafeteria, Kagman	5:30pm
March 21, 2019 – Thurs.	Tanapag Middle School cafeteria, Tanapag	5:30pm
April 2, 2019 – Tues.	Multipurpose Center, Susupe	5:30pm
April 9, 2019 – Tues.	GTC Elementary School cafeteria, San Roque	5:30pm
April 16, 2019 – Tues.	Garapan Elementary School cafeteria, Garapan	5:30pm

The Zoning Board and Office encourages the public to join and attend the meetings to learn more about **SLL 20-25 Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2018.**

SLL 20-25 may be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.zoning.gov.mp

For more information, please call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 or visit the office located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building located in Dandan.

Saipan kids get belated Christmas presents

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A religious charity group that visited the CNMI through its disaster recovery arm in November 2018 came back with an outreach program to give away thousands of belated Christmas gifts to children on Saipan.

Samaritan's Purse, an evangelical Christian humanitarian aid organization that helped the CNMI in the immediate aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, coordinated with several churches on Saipan to give away about 4,000 gifts to children on Saipan over the weekend in in event called Operation Christmas Child, which distributed donated gifts to children ages 14 and under.

» Religious charity group gives away 4,000 gifts

The gifts contained anything between toys and art and office supplies to hygienic supplies.

"Most of [the gifts] are packed by individual families from all around the world," Samaritan's Purse pacific regional manager Tyler Mahaffey told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview over the weekend.

Mahaffey noted that Operation Christmas Child donates gifts to children in over 100 countries. He added that the idea of bringing the program to Saipan stemmed from their time during Super Typhoon Yutu's disaster recovery November 2018.

"…Our disaster team was here and, as we were handing out disaster supplies, we thought we needed to bring Operation Christmas Child to Saipan, so our goal was to bring enough boxes so that children ages 2 to 14 would be able to get a box this year," he said.

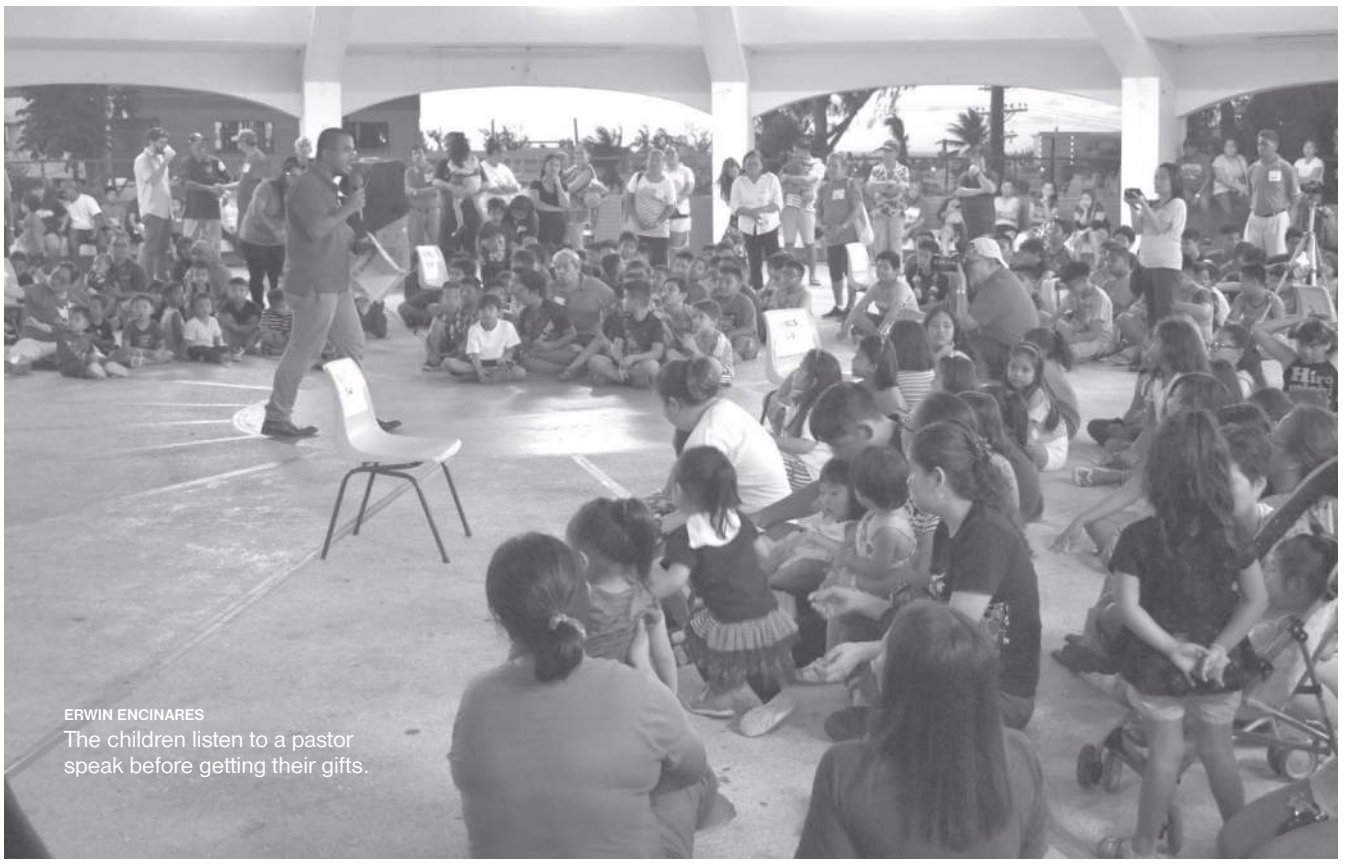
In the last weekend alone, over 4,000 children registered to avail of the gifts. Mahaffey said the organization had enough gifts to go around for all 4,000 registered.

From last Friday to Sunday, the organization handed out presents at the Garapan Central Park, the Korean Presbyterian Church, Tanapag basketball court, Kagman Youth Center, the airport field, and the Ada Gymnasium.

Samaritan's Purse's partner churches included Life in the Son, Upper Room, Palauan Evangelical, Filipino Christian Church, Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Bible Fellowship, Grace Christian Academy Navy Hill, GCA Kagman, Living Hope Church, and Living for Jesus Church.

Grace Christian Academy's Elaine Kinsella handing out the gifts to the children during the Operation Christmas Child event of Christian group Samaritan's Purse last Saturday evening at the Garapan Roundhouse. The distributions of gifts took place on March 29-31 for all children ages 2-14. ERWIN ENCINARES

ERWIN ENCINARES
The children's gift bags came with religious tracts and stories.



ERWIN ENCINARES
The children listen to a pastor speak before getting their gifts.

Children ages 14 and younger received gifts delivered by religious charity group Samaritan's Purse over the weekend. ERWIN ENCINARES

The children were all excited and looked forward to their belated Christmas presents as organizers prepare the gifts for giveaways. ERWIN ENCINARES

A child celebrates as he opens his late Christmas gift. ERWIN ENCINARES

DPL statement on Palauan *abai* project

The Torres administration issued the following statement about the Palauan *abai* project:

The Palauan *abai* (community hall) project has been an ongoing community project in the works since 2006 with open dialogue between government agencies, the Legislature, and the community at-large. It wasn't until this administration's collaboration with community partners, the Legislature, the attorney general, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Department of Public Lands that the project's current agreement for designation of use was finalized.

The Department of Public Lands signed an agreement for designation of use of public domain lands on May 29, 2018 with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which was signed by the attorney general on May 29, 2018.

The document, filed in the CNMI Superior Court and recorded as having File No. 18-1056 was a legal transaction between two government agencies. The CNMI Department of Public Lands is constitutionally mandated to manage and dispose of public lands. The assignments of public lands from one government agency to another fall within the confines of DPL's mandates, and was approved by the attorney general.

The assignment allowed for the transfer of Lot No. 124 E 40 containing an area of 7,000 square meters to DCCA to construct a Palauan *abai*. The document stated, "This designation shall not be construed in any manner, substance or form as a grant of permanent interest in the premises, whether freehold, leasehold or by prescription."

Furthermore, this is not a permanent interest, as Article 6 of the assignment document states that at the end of each 10-year period, or sooner at grantor's discretion, may conduct a land use review of this designation to ascertain compliance with the intended use of the premises stated herein.

This document was also supported by House Resolution 20-26, HD1 which was passed by the Northern Marianas House of Representatives and sent to DPL. This resolution was supported in an open public session by the following representatives from the 20thg Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature: Speaker Rafael S. Demapan and Reps. Angel A. Demapan, Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinnie F. Sablan, and minority leader Edmund S. Villagomez.

As background information, DPL issued property in Navy Hill for the *abai*. This was filed in court and referenced as No. 06-2798, where DPL then-acting secretary Ray Salas transferred part of Tract 26-9 to DCCA, which was signed by Daisy Villagomez-Bier in November 2006. This was also signed by DPL legal counsel Alan Lane and the attorney general back in 2006.

Therefore, the documents are legal, and not a violation of the Constitution, as some claim it to be. It is not a lease and not a permanent interest of land.

Similar community projects of public benefit are under the same legal framework including the CNMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville and the Kagman Community Health Center in Kagman. For reference, DPL utilizes this same legal instrument for a designation of use for any government department or agency.

In light of a recent protest about the project by a few constituents, it is quite appalling that the expression of opinion and thought by three individuals was not conducted during the earlier stages of this public process or in a more formal setting when the opportunity was available.

While constructive dialogue is welcomed, it is our belief that the misinformed rhetoric expressed by a few misinformed individuals is seeking to divide our diverse community and the numerous contributions made by our Palauan brothers and sisters. Constituents had ample time to publicly comment on this project, which followed all legal procedures and was properly conducted as a legal agreement for designation of use between two government agencies with approval by the attorney general.

There has been concrete commitment expressed by both President Tommy Remengesau Jr. and the CNMI Palau Abai Association that this community hall will be open to the public for our collective benefit. Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres has fostered the strong relationship between the CNMI and Palau directly with President Remengesau and has expressed that the relationship is a long-term partnership connecting the two island nations. The governor will continue to support the building of the *abai* and will continue to pursue community enhancement projects that displays the cultural history and unique diversity of the Marianas. ***(PR)***

Saipan chamber meeting on CNMI PWS

Members of the business community are invited to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce April general membership meeting on Wednesday, April 3, at Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

The focus on this meeting is to give updates on the 2019 CNMI Wage Survey process and to answer questions regarding its implementation. The presenters will include the private and public collaborators who are supporting the survey.

The luncheon begins at 11:30pm and with the meeting portion starting promptly at noon. Tickets are $25 for Chamber members and $35 for non-members. To RSVP six or more attendees, email Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at administrator@saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 in Susupe.

The Prevailing Wage Survey is a collaboration between the Office of the Governor, the U.S. Department of Labor, CNMI Department of Labor, the CNMI Central Statistics Division under the CNMI Department of Commerce, and the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. SCC is contracting with Hive Analytics and DataTalks to implement the survey. ***(PR)***

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This Matter is Confidential and Shall be Maintained under Seal Pursuant to 8 CMC § 1414

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION FOR Z.Z., Minor Child, By: The Biological Parent XUQIANG LI Petitioner.	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0091 ORDER SETTING HEARING AND PRESCRIBING NOTICE REGARDING ADOPTION

XUQIANG LI, petitioned the Court for a decree granting her the right to adopt ZACHARY ZHAO, a male born at the Commonwealth Health Center on April 29, 2018 (the "minor child"), and terminating the parental rights of Wang Ming, the biological mother of the minor child.

A hearing on the Petitioner's Petition for Adoption is hereby set for **April 15, 2019 at 9:00 am** before Judge Teresa Kim- Tenorio, on the 2nd Floor of Marianas Business Plaza. Any interested party may appear at that hearing.

Petitioner shall publish notice of the April 15, 2019 hearing once at least one week before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Petitioner shall also post notice on the Superior Court public notice board for a period of at least (10) calendar days before the set hearing date.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 1st day of April 2019.

Hon. Teresa K. Kim- Tenorio
Associate Judge

Public Comment Period Extended for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS

The U.S. Navy has extended the public comment period by an additional 15 days for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). Public comments may now be submitted until **April 17, 2019**, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the MITT EIS/OEIS Study Area. The draft supplement to the 2015 Final MITT EIS/OEIS supports ongoing and future activities conducted within the Study Area: at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments will be accepted online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

All comments must be postmarked or received online by April 17, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The draft document is available online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Public Library.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/COTA19-RFP-003

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 12, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for the Construction Management Services for the **Construction of the Commonwealth of Transit Authority (COTA) Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **April 2, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **April 19, 2019.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 30, 2019**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-305** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Project Team – 20%
2. Capacity – 20%
3. Past Performance – 25%
4. Local Knowledge & Proximity to the project – 10%
5. Project Approach- 25%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW/COTA19-RFP-003"**. For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 3, 2019** – AND must be received no later than **May 14, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ JOE A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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DEMOCRATS WISH LIST
16 years old can vote!
Medicare for all!
Free College Tuition
open border
ban cows
all electric cars!
And why should a 16-year-old be able to vote?
'cause I'm as smart as any 18-year-old!
16
And who are You going to vote for?
whomever my Mom and Dad tell me to vote for!
16
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EDITORIAL

Boeing crashes confirm FAA should not leave safety of planes in the hands of their makers

Boeing Co. expects to soon have a software fix to the problem believed to have caused two of its 737 Max planes to plunge into deadly nose-down crashes in the past five months.

But beyond solving the software glitch, troubling questions remain about the Federal Aviation Administration's ability to regulate safety of the airline manufacturers. At issue is the FAA's practice of relying on aircraft makers to essentially certify their own planes for flight.

Currently, airline manufacturers perform the safety tests and inspections, while the FAA oversees their work. During a Senate hearing this week, FAA Acting Administrator Daniel Elwell defended a program that allows manufacturers to certify their own products, telling lawmakers it has resulted in safe aircraft designs.

The program—known as Organization Designation Authorization (ODA)—saves time and money: Elwell said the agency would need 10,000 more employees and an additional $1.8 billion a year to complete the work now done by designated airline industry employees.

But Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D., Conn.) said at the hearing that leaving the airlines in charge of safety puts "the fox in charge of the henhouse," and promised to introduce legislation to change the system. Blumenthal said the FAA's decision to do safety on the cheap is "neither safe nor cheap."

Outsourcing the safety certification to the airline manufacturers stretches back decades. During that time, the safety record of Boeing and Airbus—the two dominant airline makers—has been strong. But questions have been raised repeatedly about the cozy relationship between the FAA and the airline manufacturers.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's inspector general released an audit in 2011 that flagged the FAA's oversight of the ODA program in which the manufacturers handled 90 percent of the safety certifications. The audit said the FAA needed to improve its oversight, including better monitoring and training of agency workers.

In 2012, the Transportation Department's watchdog found FAA employees complained their managers had "too close a relationship with Boeing officials," and that agency bosses did not always back efforts to hold the manufacturers accountable.

A 2015 audit by the inspector general found the FAA lacked adequate staffing to oversee the ODA program.

In the case of the 737 Max planes, Boeing rushed to develop a fuel-efficient jet to compete with a new Airbus model announced in 2010. An engineer who worked on the 737 Max project told the New York Times the timeline to

See BOEING on Next Page

Why so much dystopia?

By MATT WELCH
Los Angeles Times

Matt Welch is editor-at-large at Reason *magazine and a contributing writer to* Opinion.

From his opening campaign declaration that "the American dream is dead," to his creatively capitalized warning just last month that "without strong borders we don't have a country," Donald Trump has proved again and again that an apocalyptic style works in contemporary American politics.

The president's 2020 challengers, alas, have followed Trump's lead.

"We are at an inflection point in in the history of our world," Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) pronounced when kicking off her candidacy in January. "We are here because the American dream and our American democracy are under attack and on the line like never before."

Voters in the 1864 primaries might beg to differ, but that's not stopping the presidential primary field from serial declarations of catastrophe.

"Today, millions and millions and millions of American families are ... struggling to survive in a system that has been rigged by the wealthy and the well-connected," Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) said last month when announcing her presidential bid. "Millions of families can barely breathe."

Imagine the tracheal stress if unemployment was above 4 percent!

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has been hurling paranoiac thunderbolts at the "oligarchy" for as long as he's been in politics. "We have created a system which is basically out of control," he lamented in February to CBS' John Dickerson, which is why "Now it's time to complete that revolution."

We have grown accustomed to politicians of both parties, especially those not in power, drastically overselling what Barack Obama (channeling Martin Luther King) was fond of calling the "fierce urgency of now"—calls to action that need immediate attention—usually in the form of voting for the politician sounding the alarm. Republicans heading into the 2016 election breathed a manic new energy into the tradition, beginning with Trump's first rant about Mexican "rapists," which set off a bidding war to see who could bring the most crazy to the visa-policy debate. (My favorite came from first generation Indian American Bobby Jindal: "Immigration without assimilation is an invasion.")

With his bottomless reservoir of hellscape hyperbole, Trump demonstrated daily that the apocalyptic style was a ticket in alienated America for leapfrogging more staid establishment politicians.

Those conservative intellectuals who didn't leap off the Trump train learned by the time of his nomination to love the hyperbole, including most notably in the Claremont Review of Books' "Flight 93 Election." That article, written under a pseudonym by Michael Anton, who later joined and then left the Trump administration, analogized a Hillary Clinton presidency to a plane hijacked by suicidal terrorists. "Charge the cockpit or you die," Anton counseled. "You may die anyway. ... (But) if you don't try, death is certain."

Since every winning strategy in America's two-party political system ends up being copied by the losing side, the Democrats' march toward a paranoid dystopia should not surprise.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank) has been amply rewarded in the media ecosystem for making casual suggestions that the president of the United States is working for another team. Fellow committee member Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin) told Vanity Fair in January that "over the last six months, there has only been more evidence that the president has been acting on Russia's behalf."

And if early response to the Mueller report summary is any guide, don't expect much left-of-center walkback from the past two years of increasingly conspiratorial speculation about Trump/Russia.

Heading into 2020, we should expect more and louder howling into the wind, even from the most professionally upbeat 2020 Democrats.

"Society does not value work anymore," Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) warned in South Carolina on Saturday. "We have a real crisis in this country over financial stability."

Even Beto O'Rourke, in between countertop jumps and motivational rah-rah, is accessing the dark side. "The civil war in Syria, the wildfires in California—we literally are making it happen," the toothsome Texan said in New Hampshire last week. "And unless we act in the next 12 years ... there will be a hell visited upon our kids and grandkids and the generations that follow."

Why do people talk like this ? Because it speaks to our species. Humans are hardwired to believe that the sky will fall, no matter how much cleaner, healthier and richer our environs become over time. Our evolutionary parents and grandparents, after all, survived precisely because they suspected that that rattle in the bushes might well be a sabertooth tiger.

But the moral of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" is not that there is no wolf, but rather that warnings should be saved for when the beast actually arrives. The president's apocalyptic fantasia is disreputable on its face, and leads to bad policies. Democrats should resist the temptation to emulate what they despise.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reaching a region on handshakes

By WALTER V. WENDLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His reflections are available at www.walterwendler.com.

The majority of college recruiting in the United States is focused on urban and suburban high schools. On the surface, given that approximately 80 percent of the U.S. population resides in metropolitan regions, it seems a plausible approach. However, the 20 percent of the rural residents of our state and nation likewise warrant attention from good universities. The argument against rural recruiting is simply that small populations provide little return on recruiting investment.

Undeveloped human potential makes for rotten business. And it stinks.

Students in small communities have aspirations like their metropolitan brethren. Dwight Eisenhower hailed from Abilene, Kansas, population 3,500. He had aspirations. As supreme commander of the Allied Forces, he helped save the world from a crazed despot. As president of Columbia University, he led a great academic institution addressing challenges of post-war America. As President of the United States, he initiated important projects—the interstate highway system for example—all from Abilene, Kansas. His brother Milton served as president of Kansas State University and helped racially integrate the Big Eight Athletic Conference. As president of Penn State University, he was revered by students, and as president of Johns Hopkins University, the endowment doubled and the operating budget tripled. Not bad for a couple of small-town boys. Hicks by some standards.

Universities need to find ways to reach out to students from small widely-dispersed communities. Human potential resides there. At West Texas A&M University we have initiated the WT Principal's Scholars program. This program allows principals from the 66 high schools in the top 26 counties of Texas to identify up to five students who would benefit by attending West Texas A&M University. Those students will be admitted on the word of the principal alone. No forms. No processes. Rather, a principal levying judgement based on experience. A handshake. Application fees will be waived, time-to-admissions decisions based on 12 years of performance will be reduced from weeks to a split second through empirical evidence. Consideration for every available scholarship will be guaranteed.

What is lost in metropolitan schools is a personal relationship between teachers, leaders, students and families. The principals of smaller districts typically know their students, making them appropriately prepared adjudicators of admissions. In the Texas Panhandle, many districts enroll as few as 150 students, PreK-12. Principals and teachers know these students and their families.

Additionally, at last count WT provided at last count 71 percent of the credentialed public educators in the top 26 counties of Texas with at least one degree. We are proud to serve our region. The next closest provider is Texas Tech University, supplying approximately 9 percent according to Texas Education Agency data.

WT knows school personnel, and they know us, which creates a two-way confidence.

I visited every high school in the Texas Panhandle—all 66. Talking with students, teachers, principals, superintendents, board members, parents and business leaders was an eye-opening experience. There is a pragmatic clear headedness about things in West Texas. Maybe it's the altitude, the ever-present wind or the flatness of the land that creates the grit required to survive on these High Plains. Or, possibly, the neighborliness in response to the challenges of nature or the distance from seats of government removed culturally and intellectually from the purpose and power of small communities; whatever the forces, there is a sense of community—being part of something larger than self. One superintendent I visited with had been in the home of every student in his district. This ministerial bond is commanding.

Panhandle life gives access to special insights that go beyond GPAs, standardized test scores and class rank. I met a woman whose daughter was in the bottom half of her graduating class, initially denied admission to a university because of her class rank. Her twin sister was the valedictorian and in the top half of her class. This is not a riddle, but a rare reality.

Rubrics, processes and bureaucracies can be fooled. Try fooling Panhandle people.

The breaking news of high-profile admissions bribery cases demonstrates exactly why this program will work. The people are known. The community is known. The University is known. And, across the board, the intention to serve and contribute is known. For our closeness to each other in spite of wide-open distances, the expectation of propriety increases rather than decreases. Everybody has skin in the game.

We trust the principals and teachers of the Texas Panhandle to be able to identify students who will benefit by attending West Texas A&M University. Calcified bureaucracies created the problems that led to the admissions' skullduggery. We need human principles, passion and purposes at work in our institutions, and we want to capitalize on those traits to the fullest extent possible for the benefit of Panhandle people and communities—on handshakes.

Devin Nunes won't win against comedy

By CONOR FRIEDERSDORF
LOS ANGELES TIMES

If any politicians lack standing to complain about being mocked or bullied on Twitter, it is staunch supporters of Donald Trump, a president who constantly uses the platform to abuse his political enemies. If any are particularly ill-positioned to sue Twitter over satire or mockery, it's Trump-supporting Republicans who also champion the Discouraging Frivolous Lawsuits Act.

Yet Rep. Devin Nunes, a staunch Trump supporter who recently co-sponsored the Discouraging Frivolous Lawsuits Act, has filed a $250-million lawsuit against Twitter.

The lawsuit makes it very easy to laugh at Nunes—not because it exposes him as a hypocrite, but because he was so vexed by two anonymously written Twitter accounts.

One parody account falsely purported to be written by his mom.

"In her endless barrage of tweets, Devin Nunes' Mom maliciously attacked every aspect of Nunes' character, honesty, integrity, ethics and fitness to perform his duties as a United States Congressman," states the legal complaint that he voluntarily entered into the public record.

Inadvisable as that was, the lawsuit might've spurred fewer jokes from late-night comedy shows if he hadn't also decided to sue a parody account purporting to be written by his cow. (I could not independently confirm whether any cow owned by his family is literate.) Before the lawsuit was filed, @devincow had 1,200 followers. Now it has 557,000 followers, making it the most followed imaginary cow on the platform, as far as I know.

Legal experts who've reviewed the lawsuit are laughing, too.

Attorney and free speech expert Ken White declared it "unusually buffoonish" on the KCRW podcast he co-hosts, explaining that some of its theories are clearly at odds with federal law, and that it targets a lot of material that is definitely protected by the 1st Amendment.

"Even in an era of stupid lawsuits, this one sticks out," White said. "It seems almost like some kind of ritual self-humiliation by Nunes, kind of a jurisprudential streaking."

But he added that the lawsuit is serious insofar as it forces the people named as defendants "to lawyer up and face the very stressful and expensive prospect of litigation to get rid of it."

One of those people, political consultant Liz Mair, an outspoken critic of Nunes, commented that "Rep. Nunes and I have starkly different views on civil liberties writ large." She takes exception to a politician suing U.S. citizens for engaging in an American birthright: criticizing politicians.

It was the French playwright Moliere who articulated one of the best defenses of preserving the freedom to deploy mockery as criticism. "The most forceful lines of a serious moral statement are usually less powerful than those of satire; and nothing will reform most men better than the depiction of their faults," he wrote. "It is a vigorous blow to vices to expose them to public laughter." To exempt anyone from comedy, he added, "would be much more dangerous than the thing itself."

I won't defend the substance of every tweet aimed at the congressman, or the character of the most vile. But it isn't clear that any of them meet the legal standard for libel.

By filing this lawsuit, Nunes has done orders of magnitude more damage to his reputation than anything contained in all of the tweets that bothered him.

The lawsuit also targets all sorts of speech that is neither libelous nor vile. For example, this tweet: "The people of California's Central Valley are upright folk who work hard, look you square in the eye and give you a firm handshake. And then there is @DevinNunes."

A congressman who believes it should be illegal to express that opinion doesn't deserve his seat and certainly isn't defending or protecting the Constitution. With respect to his fitness for office, it appears that "Devin Nunes' Mom" had a point.

Conor Friedersdorf is a contributing writer to Los Angeles Times Opinion*, a staff writer at the* Atlantic *and founding editor of the* Best of Journalism*, a newsletter that curates exceptional nonfiction.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Enforce laws against littering

I recently read an article in the *Saipan Tribune* about Japanese tourist (Japan's FM Nack5 Radio Group) cleaning a beach while here. It was supposed to be a feel-good moment. Good luck with that. I thought: Who wants to go on vacation to another country and clean their beach because they are either too lazy to keep it clean themselves, or are afraid to implement strong litter laws where fines would prevent it? After I read the article I drove around the island to have a look myself. The first beach I arrived at (Coral Beach) was a mess. Trash everywhere in and around every public structure and picnic area. No shock here but every other beach I drove to was also trashed. We should be ashamed to have tourist here cleaning up our beaches, but instead of shame we put it in the newspaper as if it's a good thing. I searched the *Tribune*'s archives and found countless articles where Japanese or Korean tourist are cleaning a beach or memorial site. Oddly enough, no Chinese are lining up to do this.

MVA, Parks and Recreation, and the CNMI government as a whole should be ashamed of these conditions. Ever though we should post signs and pass anti-littering laws to prevent it, why do that when the Japanese will come here and clean it for free? You don't have to look any further than our beaches to figure out why the Japanese stopped coming here. Japan is a very clean country and not all Japanese are going to be on the "Let's go clean Saipan, feel-good" tour. Does the CNMI want those Skymark flights to last? Invest in keeping the beaches clean and implement and enforce litter laws.

Mica F. Cochran
Capital Hill, Isla Drive

BOEING

From Page 10

develop the plane was "extremely compressed," adding "it was go, go, go." The Seattle Times reported Boeing's original safety analysis for a new flight control system on the Max 737 contained crucial flaws.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao requested the inspector general conduct an audit to see how the 737 Max was certified. Federal prosecutors also are investigating the plane's development.

The FAA was slow to ground the 737 Max after the two crashes, following the lead of other countries and raising questions about pressure from Boeing. Going forward, the FAA must take steps to ensure independence and safety are its top priorities.

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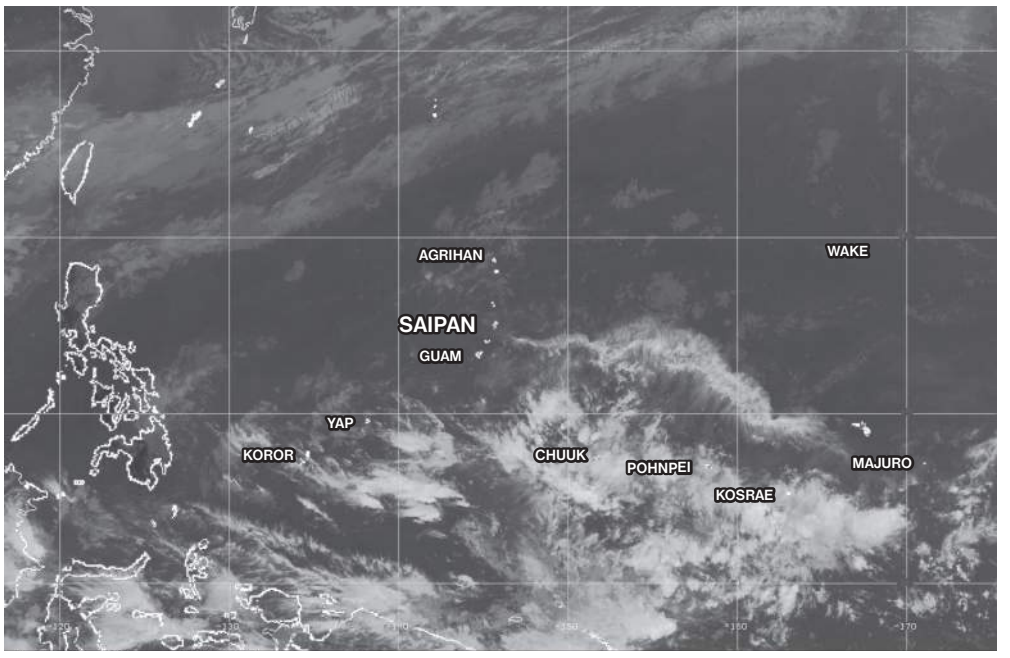
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:07 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, mainly west of the islands and moving away. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 12 to 20 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal 5 to 7 foot combined seas, trending downward, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from just south of east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Palau	Showers	84° / 76°
Yap	Showers	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	72° / 41°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 70°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 69°
London	Showers	48° / 34°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	75° / 57°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	83° / 69°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	51° / 41°
Osaka	Showers	54° / 41°
Paris	Showers	63° / 39°
Busan	Sunny	57° / 43°
Rome	Cloudy	68° / 52°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 41°
San Francisco	Showers	58° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	55° / 36°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	55° / 37°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	55° / 40°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:01 AM	LOW TIDE	0.19
06:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
12:40 PM	LOW TIDE	0.84
5:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:12 AM	4:04 PM	-
Wednesday	4:51 AM	4:52 PM	-
Thursday	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	-
Friday	6:06 AM	6:27 PM	-
Saturday	6:44 AM	7:16 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

2019 Las Vegas Night

Photos by ERWIN ENCINARES

Rotary Club of Saipan Greg Borja reaches in for tickets during the grand raffle draw of the Las Vegas Night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Several join the first execution of a Texas Hold 'Em Poker tournament during Las Vegas Night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

People line up for walk-in tickets during Las Vegas Night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Several blackjack tables were open for players during Las Vegas Night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The craps table never had a shortage of players all night.

Bingo players attended the Las Vegas Night in droves.

The roulette tables were crowded all through the night as well.

Several members of the community supported the 2019 Las Vegas Night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

THROUGH UOG'S MICRONESIAN AREA RESEARCH CENTER

Guam students qualify for Nat'l History Day contest

Twelve students from Guam middle and high schools have qualified to present their projects on Guam history at the National History Day contest this June in Washington, D.C.

The students were winners of the Guam History Day competition on March 23 held by the University of Guam Micronesian Area Research Center and the Guam Preservation Trust.

"The kids compete annually for the opportunity to represent Guam at the National History Day competition in Washington, D.C.," said Guam state coordinator LaVonne Guerrero-Meno. "There are about 23,000 kids, and we're talking about students from every state, territory, and some international schools all competing at this competition."

Guam History Day is a yearlong historical research program geared toward middle school and high school students to develop their perspectives of Guam's history.

High school and middle school participants register for the annual Guam History Day competition on March 23. UOG

This year 26 students from nine middle and high schools in Guam received awards for their projects pertaining to the theme "Triumph and Tragedy in Guam's History," and 12 students' scores were high enough to qualify them to compete in the national competition.

Their projects were submitted in the form of documentaries, performances, exhibits, research papers, and websites and are judged based on historic quality and accuracy, adherence to the theme, and project guidelines.

"The projects I've seen have been creative and the students were determined," said Guerrero-Meno, who has been involved with Guam History Day since 2011.

She noticed that in previous years, a large portion of the students' research was dependent on the internet.

"This year, I was so proud to see that Andersen Middle School, SIFA Learning Academy, Untalan Middle School, Father Duenas, and St. John's all had field trips into the MARC," she said. ***(UOG)***

Brian Songco from Father Duenas Memorial School presents his research paper to judges. UOG

Ave Petra from St. John's School took first place in the Exhibit Single category. From left, James D. Sellmann, dean of University of Guam's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; Petra; Sen. Therese Terlaje; and Sharleen Santos-Bamba, associate dean of CLASS at UOG. UOG

Roland San Nicolas, assistant professor of library science at UOG, judges group exhibits. UOG

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability joined other sustainability partners in the community on March 29 as the governor signed a proclamation declaring April as Island Sustainability Month. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

UOG Conference on Island Sustainability reaches 10-year milestone

The University of Guam Regional Conference on Island Sustainability will mark its 10th year of fueling discussions on how to meet the needs of the current generation without comprising the needs of future generations.

Raigetal

This year's weeklong conference will be held from April 8 to April 12 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The conference coincides with a series of activities and events in collaboration with the Guam Nature Alliance throughout April, which was recently proclaimed "Island Sustainability Month" by Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

The 10th conference will reflect on a decade of renewed focus brought to the ancient island value of sustainability. The 2019 conference theme, "Sustainable Then. Sustainable Again?" recalls the island's past as a sustainable society and asks if and how we can be sustainable again.

Traditional island navigators teach the importance of looking back to where you came from in order to sail forward to your destination. A blend of historical perspectives and modern innovations will provide conference participants with new tools and ideas to move the islands of the region toward a sustainable future. Decreasing reliance on imports, improving energy independence, and increasing food security all reduce the export of money and build a thriving local economy, more resilient to disasters and global changes.

"The conference will continue to encourage action to achieve sustainability, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the smart thing to do," said Dr. Austin J. Shelton, executive director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability. "The ideas that come out of these productive discussions are relevant to all sectors of society, so we encourage all to participate."

Ellis

The 10th UOG Regional Conference on Island Sustainability opens at 3pm on April 9 beginning with a report from the Presidential Summit on Island Sustainability. Main conference events will be split between April 10 and April 11, or Day 1 and Day 2. Pre-conference workshops and trainings will take place on April 8 and the morning of April 9.

Day 1's keynote presentation will be delivered by master navigator and canoe carver Larry Raigetal and his students of the Traditional Navigation and Climate Change Adaptation course at UOG.

Raigetal is the co-founder of Waa'gey, an organization that encourages the passing of traditional knowledge to future generations. He also served in several capacities related to sustainable development and the impacts of climate change as a representative of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Amanda Ellis, a former New Zealand ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, is the keynote speaker for Day 2.

Ellis served many roles in the public and private sectors relative to sustainable development, gender equality, financing, and policymaking, among other roles. She is serves as executive director, Hawaii and Asia-Pacific, and director of strategic partnerships for the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University.

For registration, conference schedules, and more information, visit www.uog.edu/cis2019.

For a video of the proclamation signing ceremony, visit facebook.com/uogcis. ***(UOG)***

Business

Japan says name for new era of Naruhito will be 'Reiwa'

TOKYO (AP)—The name of the era of Japan's soon-to-be-emperor Naruhito will be "Reiwa," the government announced Monday.

Emperor Akihito is stepping down on April 30, in the first abdication in 200 years, bringing his era of "Heisei" to an end. The new era takes effect May 1.

The name draws from the 7th century poetry collection "Manyoshu," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said after the announcement by the chief cabinet secretary, Yoshihide Suga.

Abe said the name means that culture is born and nurtured as the people "beautifully care about each other."

"With this selection of a new era name, I renew my commitment to pioneer a new era that will be filled with hope," Abe said.

The Manyoshu is Japan's oldest poetry collection and symbolizes Japan's rich culture and long tradition, he said.

The choice was a break from more than 1,300 years of drawing era names, or "gengo" from using Chinese classics. It was kept strictly secret ahead of Monday's announcement.

"We hope (the era name) will be widely accepted by the people and deeply rooted as part of their daily lives," Suga told reporters in first announcing the name, written in two Chinese characters in black ink calligraphy on a white background.

The announcement allows only a month ahead of the switch for government, businesses and other sectors to adjust to the change that still affects many parts of Japan's society, even though the system is not compulsory and the emperor has no political power under Japan's postwar constitution.

Under the 1979 era name law, Abe appointed a panel of experts on classical Chinese and Japanese literature to nominate two to five names for top officials to choose from. The names had to meet strict criteria, being easy to read and write but not commonly or previously used for an era name.

Japanese media scrambled to get scoops out of a new era name. Rumors included "Ankyu," which uses the same Chinese character as in Abe's family name.

There had been speculation that Abe's ultra-conservative government, often hawkish on China matters, would choose the name from a Japanese document, breaking with the tradition of using Chinese classics as references.

The name selection procedure started in mid-March when Suga asked a handful of unidentified scholars to nominate two to five era names each.

Several nominations were presented at a first, closed-door meeting that included nine outside experts from various areas, including Nobel prize-winning stem-cell scientist Shinya Yamanaka and award-winning novelist Mariko Hayashi, to present their views and narrow the selection before final approval by the Cabinet.

While a growing number of Japanese prefer the Western calendar over the Japanese system in a highly digitalized and globalized society, the era name is still widely used in government and business documents. Elders often use it to identify their generations.

Discussing and guessing new era names in advance is not considered a taboo this time because Akihito is abdicating. Era name change is also a time for many Japanese to reflect on the outgoing and incoming decades.

Akihito's era of "Heisei," which means "achieving peace," was the first without a war in Japan's modern history, but is also remembered as lost years of economic deflation and natural disasters.

AP

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga unveils the name of new era "Reiwa" at the prime minister's office in Tokyo, Monday, April 1, 2019. Japan says next emperor Naruhito's era name is Reiwa, effective May 1 when he takes the throne from his father.

Nostalgia, excitement as Japan learns new imperial era name

By FOSTER KLUG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in a name?

Quite a lot if you're a Japanese citizen just learning Monday that the soon-to-be-installed new emperor's next era will be called Reiwa.

It's a proclamation that has happened only twice in nearly a century. Reiwa will follow Emperor Naruhito, after his May 1 investiture, for the duration of his rule—and beyond, becoming his official name after death.

An era name is an inextricable part of public life and shared memory in Japan. A lot of what happens in the years to come—births, deaths, natural disasters, cultural and social phenomena, election glory and political scandal—will be connected to the new era name.

As such, the closing days of the current Heisei era, which is what retiring Emperor Akihito's 30-year reign has been called, have inspired a collective bout of nostalgia, soul-searching and occasional goofiness, as many Japanese reflect on both Heisei and this new block of years linked to Reiwa that will loom over a huge part of their lives.

Buzz-cut teens fielded questions at the hallowed spring high school baseball tournament about their feelings as the last group of Heisei sluggers. TV quiz shows tested contestants' Heisei knowledge. Special dolls were made to mimic the moment when Chief Cabinet Minister Yoshihide Suga appeared before cameras Monday to reveal a card with calligraphy of the name Reiwa on it. A high-end Tokyo restaurant has even unveiled a $900 wagyu burger to commemorate the era change.

Reiwa was the choice of a top-secret committee that pored over ancient documents to find what they considered to be the perfect two characters to describe the next several decades. The process, like the imperial system itself, is opaque, vaguely mysterious and steeped in ritual and bureaucracy.

What they settled on, however—Reiwa—will affect everything from calendars to train tickets to computer software to government documents, creating a windfall for printers and programmers, even as they give a name to Japan's foreseeable future.

"The era names carry this weight with them; they have this sense of defining a period," said Daniel Sneider, a Japan expert and lecturer at Stanford University.

A 2000 tornado in Fort Worth triggered a boom

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—It's been nearly 20 years since a tornado lumbered through downtown Fort Worth and experts say the deadly storm left behind more than just destruction, according to experts.

Experts say the March 28, 2000, twister, which caused an estimated $400 million in damage, triggered a valuable opportunity for business redevelopment and more housing, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports .

Insurance Council of Texas records show the tornado that killed two people in Fort Worth was the 21st costliest storm in state history.

"I think by the next morning we pretty much understood the scale of the damage that had occurred," said former Fort Worth Mayor Kenneth Barr.

Initially 20 to 25 blocks of downtown were closed as concerns about falling glass from downtown skyscrapers continued.

Phillip Poole, a Fort Worth architect and urban planner, said the storm provided an opportunity to redevelop along the West Seventh corridor.

"I think it gave us an opportunity we probably wouldn't have had," said Poole, who heads TownSite, a real estate development firm that has done projects on the west side and Near Southside of Fort Worth.

Tarrant Appraisal District records show that from 2000 to 2018, the value of the storm-damaged areas of downtown and the Cultural District increased 359 percent from $1.63 billion to $7.48 billion.

"Nobody wants to experience a tornado but the destruction of that tornado forced people to think differently about redevelopment," said Fernando Cost, assistant city manager.

Though it wasn't hit by the tornado, plans to tear down the old Ripley-Arnold public housing project and build a new Radio Shack corporate campus—now Tarrant County College's Trinity River campus—also helped persuade investors that downtown was ripe for residential housing, Barr said.

John Roberts, a Fort Worth architect, said while development would've likely occurred regardless of the twister, the progress is still impressive.

"I think it probably would have happened without the tornado but maybe not as rapidly as it did," he said. "There are parts of it I like and parts that I don't but that's always the case."

How to prepare next year's tax filing now

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

If you weren't happy with your tax bill this year, or you're worried about next year's, this is the time to take action.

CHECK YOUR WITHHOLDINGS

If you do only one thing, review the withholdings on your paycheck.

The tax overhaul changed how much employers withhold from paychecks. If you withhold too much, you are due a refund. If you withhold too little, you owe. While the government urged people to review their withholdings to make sure they were up to date, few did. As a result, some people got more money in their checks during the year but were surprised at tax time.

The IRS urges all taxpayers to do a "Paycheck Checkup" now so that if a withholding adjustment is needed, there is time for it to happen more evenly this year. You can change your withholdings at any time. Waiting means fewer pay periods to withhold the necessary federal tax. The IRS has a withholding calculator on its site, which will help people determine their correct withholding amount.

SAVE FOR RETIREMENT

If you set more aside for your future retirement, it can actually help you on your taxes now. That's because money put in a 401(K) account is pretax, thereby lowering your income level. There are also tax breaks for contributing to IRAs and other retirement accounts.

So check to make sure you are contributing as much as possible to your retirement plan, said Dave Du Val, chief consumer advocacy officer at TaxAudit.

DON'T OVERLOOK DEDUCTIONS

Yes, the tax overhaul did away with or limited a number of popular deductions but there are still some out there for the taking.

You can claim mortgage interest on up to two homes. Consider bunching your charitable donations together into one year instead of spreading them out over multiple years to get the biggest tax bang for your buck. If you have medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income, make sure to claim those. And you can still deduct up to $10,000 in personal property tax, real estate tax, and state and local income or sales tax.

The standard deduction is much higher, but experts say it's still worth running through the exercise to see if your itemized deductions are larger.

Nation

Ride-share mistake led to death of SC college student

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—The man accused of killing a woman who got into his car thinking it was her Uber ride had activated the child locks in his backseat so the doors could only be opened from the outside, police in South Carolina say.

Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook also said investigators found the victim's blood in Nathaniel David Rowland's vehicle. Rowland, 24, was arrested and charged in the death of 21-year-old Samantha Josephson, a University of South Carolina student from Robbinsville, New Jersey.

Investigators would not say what they think Rowland did to Josephson from the time she got into his black Chevrolet Impala in Columbia's Five Points entertainment district around 1:30 a.m. Friday until her body was dumped in woods off a dirt road in Clarendon County about 65 miles (105 kilometers) away.

Josephson had numerous wounds to her head, neck, face, upper body, leg and foot, according to arrest warrants released Sunday by the State Law Enforcement Division. The documents didn't say what was used to attack her.

Josephson's blood was found in the trunk and inside Rowland's car along with her cellphone, bleach, window cleaner and cleaning wipes, Holbrook said.

"This was a bad scene," the police chief said at a news conference late Saturday.

Hunters found Josephson's body Friday afternoon just hours after it was dumped, despite being left in an area that was "very difficult to get to unless you knew how to get there," Holbrook said.

Rowland has recently lived in the area, he said.

The night after Josephson was kidnapped, a Columbia police officer noticed a black Chevrolet Impala about two blocks from the Five Points bars where Josephson was kidnapped. The driver ran, but was arrested after a short chase, Holbrook said.

Rowland is charged with kidnapping and murder, Holbrook said. He was being held in the Richland County jail. It wasn't known if he had a lawyer.

Rowland decided not to appear at a hearing in jail Sunday. The judge allowed Josephson's mother to speak, The State newspaper reported.

Marci Josephson said her daughter was planning to go to law school after graduating in May and described her as "bubbly, loving, kind and full of life."

"Unlike him, Samantha had love within her heart and purpose in her life," Marci Josephson said.

Safety advocates urged college students to match the vehicle color and model, the license tag number, and the photo of their ride-share drivers before getting in a vehicle and make the driver say their names to them before they introduce themselves.

"She simply, mistakenly, got into the car thinking it was an Uber ride," Holbrook said.

HOLOCAUST RELIC

Portraits of Holocaust survivors are displayed at the Museum of Jewish Heritage as a vintage German train car, like those used to transport people to Auschwitz and other death camps, is uncovered on tracks outside the museum, in New York, Sunday, March 31, 2019. The train car joins hundreds of artifacts from Auschwitz at the museum for an exhibit entitled "Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away," that opens to the public on May 8. AP

ACROSS THE NATION

2 pilots killed in Marine helicopter crash in Arizona

YUMA, Ariz. (AP)—Two Marine pilots have died in a helicopter crash during a training mission in southwestern Arizona, U.S. Marine Corps officials said Sunday. The AH-1Z Viper crashed Saturday night while the pilots were conducting a training mission as part of a weapons and tactical instructor course, according to the Marine Corps. The cause of the crash is under investigation. Capt. Gabriel Adibe, a Marine Corps spokesman, said the helicopter crashed on the vast Marine Corps Air Station Yuma training grounds but no additional information was immediately available. The names of the pilots who died have not been released pending notification of their families. The station is located about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from Yuma and the 1,300-square-mile (3,367-square-kilometer) training ground is one of the world's largest military installations.

Officer injured; police kill man with gun, bulletproof vest

MIAMI (AP)—State police are investigating after Miami police fatally shot a man they say was armed with a shotgun and wearing a bulletproof vest. Authorities received a call that the unidentified man was walking through a neighborhood Saturday. According to a press release, officers tried repeatedly to negotiate with the man but were not successful. Few details were released, but authorities said he was shot after refusing to drop his weapon and was pronounced dead at the scene. A Miami Dade Police offer was also injured but authorities did not say how. A shotgun and bulletproof vest were recovered from the scene. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating.

Forest fire burns thousands of acres in New Jersey Pinelands

CHATSWORTH, N.J. (AP)—Authorities say fire whipped by high winds has spread over thousands of acres of state land in New Jersey's Pine Barrens, a forested area of coastal plain that stretches more than 1 million acres. State environmental protection department officials say the blaze was reported Saturday afternoon in Penn State Forest in Woodland Township. Department spokesman Larry Hajna (HAY-nah) said Sunday afternoon the blaze had grown to 10,000 acres (40 sq. kilometers) with about 75 percent containment. Officials said plumes of smoke were visible from as far as Freehold, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) away. Hajna says a portion of Route 72, the main road across the Pinelands, has been closed. No homes or businesses are endangered and no injuries or mandatory evacuations have been reported. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Atlanta police officer fatally shoots man during chase

ATLANTA (AP)—Authorities say a police officer fatally shot a man who showed a gun while being chased in woods in Atlanta. Atlanta Police told news outlets the officer was flagged down by someone who heard gunshots around a strip club about 1 a.m. Sunday near Interstate 85 in southwest Atlanta. Police say the officer found the man, who ran into the woods. Authorities say the officer fired his weapon after he saw a gun in the man's hands. The identities of the man killed and the officer have not been released. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is investigating.

Barr: Redacted Mueller report could be released by mid-April

WASHINGTON (AP)—A redacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report on the Russia investigation will be sent to Congress by mid-April and will not be shared with the White House beforehand, Attorney General William Barr said. Barr's timeline, included in a letter to the chairmen of the House and Senate judiciary committees, sets up a possible showdown with House Democrats, who are insisting they see the full report next week. In his letter, Barr said Friday he shares a desire for Congress and the public to be able to read Mueller's findings, which are included in the nearly 400-page report the special counsel submitted last week. Barr said President Donald Trump would have the right to assert executive privilege over parts of the report. But he noted that Trump "has stated publicly that he intends to defer to me and, accordingly, there are no plans to submit the report to the White House for a privilege review."

Asia

Philippine police kill 14 men rights groups say were farmers

BACOLOD, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police said Sunday that 14 suspected communist rebels were killed after they opened fire during raids in a central province, but rights groups countered that the men were farmers and the latest victims of extrajudicial killings.

Dozens of police, backed by army troops, were to conduct court-authorized home searches Saturday in a city and two towns in Negros Oriental province when the 14 men violently fought back, police officials said. A police officer was shot in the leg and wounded in the anti-insurgency and criminality sweep that also led to the arrests of 15 other suspects, they said.

Regional police chief Debold Sinas said six suspected insurgents and rebel supporters escaped. Law enforcers seized three shotguns, 25 pistols, a homemade rifle, three grenades, ammunition and rebel documents in the simultaneous raids in Canlaon city, where eight suspects were gunned down, and the towns of Manjuyod and Santa Catalina, where the rest were killed in the reported gunbattles.

"There were 14 suspects that engaged the raiders in a shootout during the implementation of the search warrants resulting to their deaths," Sinas told the national police chief in a report.

Human rights and farmers' groups condemned the killings of the men they said were farmers, including two village chiefs, and called for an independent investigation.

The Federation of Agricultural Workers cited the wife of one of the dead men, Edgardo Avelino, as saying that 10 men in uniform forcibly entered their home at around midnight saying they would serve an arrest warrant. Moments after, the men reportedly gunned down Avelino and his brother, Ismael, the farmers' group said.

A Roman Catholic bishop, Gerardo Alminaza, said among those killed was a church minister known for his good character and some members of a church group. Atrocities committed by law enforcers, Alminaza said, "will make you best recruiters for the underground movement."

"The appalling conduct of these 'police operations' obviously aims to make peasants, activists and other ordinary citizens of Negros to cower in fear, surrender their rights, and accept the wave of terror under the de facto martial law," the Northern Negros Alliance of Human Rights Advocates said.

The group said six farmers were killed and more than 50 others arrested in similar police raids in December in Guihulngan city in Negros Oriental, which lies on a sugar-producing agricultural island long known for its gaping divide between the poor and wealthy landowning families.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the country's south in 2017 to contain a deadly siege by Islamic State group-aligned militants and other insurgents. Although Negros Oriental lies outside the south, it is in a region about 590 kilometers (366 miles) south of Manila where military and police forces have intensified counterinsurgency raids in recent years.

Police denied the 14 men killed in Saturday's raids were victims of extrajudicial killings. Aside from unlicensed firearms, police were looking for suspected New People's Army guerrillas involved in a failed attack on a Canlaon city police station this month and other assaults on police officers, Sinas said.

Vietnam woman pleads guilty to lesser charge in Kim killing

AP

Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong, center, is escorted by police as she arrives at Shah Alam High Court in Shah Alam, Malaysia, Monday, April 1, 2019.

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—A Vietnamese woman who is the only suspect in custody for the killing of the North Korean leader's brother pleaded guilty to a lesser charge in a Malaysian court Monday and her lawyer asked for leniency.

Doan Thi Huong nodded as a translator read the new charge to her. She had faced a murder charge, which carried the death penalty if she was convicted. The new charge of voluntarily causing injury with a dangerous weapon, VX nerve agent, carries a maximum possible sentence of 10 years in jail.

Her lawyer Hisyam Teh Poh Teik told the court that her guilty plea showed Huong "has taken responsibility" for her actions. In asking for a lenient sentence, he also told the court that her move saved judicial time.

Huong bowed and greeted her father, Doan Van Tranh, and Vietnamese officials after the judge left the courtroom. After a brief break, the judge is expected to announce the sentence.

Hisyam had urged the judge to take into account Huong's honesty, her acceptance of responsibility and the acquittal of her co-defendant.

"She is neither a criminal nor has the propensity to commit a crime," Hisyam said.

Huong, the youngest of five children, has a promising future with a degree in accountancy but she is also "naive and gullible," he said.

Hisyam said four North Korean suspects still at large were the "real assassins."

They "exploited her weakness and manipulated her to carry out their evil designs under the camouflage of funny videos and pranks," he said.

Hisyam said Huong had been punished physically and emotionally since she was detained two years ago and urged the judge to temper justice with mercy.

Vietnamese Ambassador Le Quy Qunyh said he was unhappy as he expected Huong to be freed immediately.

"I am not happy with this. I hope that she can be released today. It's not fair to her. We will keep requesting Malaysia to release her," he told reporters.

Huong is the only suspect in custody after the attorney general's' stunning decision to drop the case against Indonesian Siti Aisyah on March 11 following high-level lobbying from Jakarta. Huong sought to be acquitted after Aisyah was freed, but prosecutors rejected her request.

Bangladesh police arrest building owners over fatal blaze

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police in Bangladesh's capital have arrested two of the owners of a commercial complex that caught fire this past week, killing 26 people and injuring about 70, an official said Sunday.

F.R. Tower's owners Tasvir-ul-Islam and S.M.H.I. Faruque were arrested in Dhaka and charged with negligence and violations of a building code that resulted in casualties, Additional Deputy Commissioner of the Detective Branch Shahjahan Shaju told The Associated Press. In cases where deaths occur as a result of negligence, defendants also usually face culpable homicide charges.

The arrests were made late Saturday night and early Sunday.

The blaze that burned for several hours Thursday trapped people inside the building, some shouting for help from windows on upper floors and the roof.

Authorities say the complex on a busy avenue in Dhaka's Banani commercial district had no fire-protected staircases and some top floors of the 22-story building were illegally constructed.

Shaju said Islam, who is the chief executive of Quasem Drycells Ltd., was the owner of the top three floors and had no permission for the construction, while Faruque was the land owner of the complex. There are other partners who jointly own the building and police were looking for the chief of the construction company that built the complex.

Islam, a district level leader, is tied to the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Officials said earlier that the owners of the complex sought permission from the Capital Development Authority in 1996 to construct an 18-story complex but later raised it illegally. Fire officials said the complex did not have an adequate fire protection and detection system in place despite repeated warnings by them during previous inspections.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rainstorm hits south Nepal; PM says 25 dead, hundreds hurt

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Rescuers are struggling to reach villages in southern Nepal that were cut off by a rainstorm that has killed 25 people and injured hundreds more. The rainstorm swept through villages in a farming region of Bara and Parsa districts in southern Nepal on Sunday night. Nepal's Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli said on Twitter he had received a report of 25 people killed and 400 injured. Police official Sanu Ram Bhattarai said people were crushed by falling walls of their own homes and other debris. Bhattarai said police officers and soldiers from neighboring areas had reached the districts Monday and were trying to reach the villages. Police said cars were flipped by the high winds and passengers were killed in one passenger bus that got blown off the highway.

China changes all fentanyl varieties to controlled substance

BE**IJING** (AP)—China announced Monday that all fentanyl-related drugs, as a group, would become controlled substances, effective May 1—a step U.S. officials have long advocated as a way to stem the flow of lethal opioids from China. U.S. officials hope that the sweeping change in the way China regulates drugs that mimic fentanyl will help end the game of regulatory whack-a-mole with chemists who can manufacture novel opioids faster than they can be banned. It could help facilitate prosecutions of opioid merchants in China, who until now have skirted the law by manufacturing and exporting fentanyl variants that are technically legal under Chinese law. China already controls more than two dozen variants of fentanyl, plus two precursors. Data from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has shown that when China bans a variant of fentanyl, seizures of that analog in the U.S. fall.

Proposed Hong Kong extradition law changes spark concerns

HONG KONG (AP)—Business and human rights groups are expressing concern over proposed changes to Hong Kong's extradition law that would allow suspects to be sent to mainland China, where they could be subject to torture and unfair prosecution. They say the move would harm the Asian financial hub's attractiveness to international business. Hong Kong currently limits such extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing extradition agreements or to others on an individual basis under a law passed before the semi-autonomous territory's handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997. China was excluded because of concerns over its poor record on legal independence and human rights.

World

3 Australian orphans reportedly found in Syrian camp

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's prime minister said on Monday he won't put officials in danger by retrieving three orphaned Australian children of a convicted terrorist who have reportedly been found in a Syrian refugee camp.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's response to the plight of former Islamic State group fighter Khaled Sharrouf's children is the same as his government's reaction to other Australians who have joined the fight with extremist groups in Syria and want to come home.

"I'm not going to put one Australian life at risk to try and extract people from these dangerous situations," Morrison told reporters.

But security experts say that Australians can and should be safely brought home from Syrian refugee camps since the defeat of Islamic State forces.

Only three of Sharrouf's five children survived the conflict, Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported. They are 17-year-old Zaynab, Hoda, 16, and Humzeh, 8. The siblings fled the siege of Baghouz village in mid-March. Zaynab is pregnant and has her two children with her, Ayesha, 3, and Fatima, 2.

Their grandmother, Karen Nettleton, said she is particularly concerned for Zaynab, who is about to give birth in the squalid al-Hawl camp.

"Zaynab is seven-and-a half months pregnant; she's feeling very fatigued," Nettleton told ABC.

The siblings' father Khaled Sharrouf in 2017 was the first dual national to be stripped of Australian citizenship for actions contrary to his allegiance to Australia.

The Sydney-born man slipped out of Australia in 2013 on his brother's passport because his own had been canceled because of his conviction for his part in a thwarted terrorist attack plot in Australia. He was left with Lebanese citizenship.

Sharrouf horrified the world in 2014 when he posted on social media a photograph of his young son clutching the severed head of a Syrian soldier.

Then-U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry described that image as "one of the most disturbing, stomach-turning, grotesque photographs ever displayed."

Sharrouf's wife Tara Nettleton, with her five children, joined her husband in Syria in 2014. She died of medical complications in 2015.

Sharrouf and his two eldest sons Abdullah, 12, and Zarqawi, 11, were killed in an air strike near Raqqa, the Islamic State-group's stronghold in Syria, in August 2017, the ABC reported.

Save the Children Australia's Mat Tinkler said Australia should follow the lead of France, which recently repatriated five orphaned children from Syria.

"We seek to ensure Australian children trapped in Syria are not punished for the crimes of their parents," Tinkler said.

"It is entirely within the Australian government's power to bring these children home and we urge them to do so immediately," he added.

Pope tells Moroccans: We are brothers and sisters

Pope Francis is cheered by faithful as he leaves the Rabat Cathedral, Morocco, Sunday, March 31, 2019. AP

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—Pope Francis sought Sunday to encourage greater fraternity between Christians and Muslims in Morocco, telling his flock that showing the country's Muslim majority they are part of the same human family will help stamp out extremism.

On his second and final day in Morocco, Francis told Catholic priests and sisters that even though they are few in number, they shouldn't seek to convert others to Christianity but rather engage in dialogue and charity.

"In this way, you will unmask and lay bare every attempt to exploit differences and ignorance in order to sow fear, hatred and conflict," he said. "For we know that fear and hatred, nurtured and manipulated, destabilize our communities and leave them spiritually defenseless."

Francis has stressed a message of Christian-Muslim fraternity during his first trip to Morocco, a majority Muslim nation of 36 million. Proselytism is a sensitive topic in religious discourse in the North African nation, even though Christians, Muslims and Jews have coexisted peacefully here for centuries.

After reaching out Saturday to Morocco's Sunni majority, Francis turned his attention Sunday to the country's Christian minority, celebrating a Mass for about 10,000 people representing 60 countries, many of them sub-Saharan African migrants and other foreigners.

In his homily, delivered in his native Spanish and translated into French, Francis urged them to resist the temptation to sow division and confrontation and instead remember "we are brothers and sisters."

"Experience tells us that hatred, division and revenge succeed only in killing our peoples' soul, poisoning our children's hopes, and destroying and sweeping away everything we cherish," Francis told the faithful, who gathered in a sports arena in Rabat.

Francis' aim was to highlight the constructive presence of Christians in Moroccan life and how they are part of its human fabric alongside Muslims and people of other faith.

He started his day Sunday by visiting a social center run by Catholic religious sisters that serves a poor Muslim community south of the capital, Rabat, with medical, educational and vocational services. The Temara center operates a preschool, treats burn victims, trains women in sewing and provides meals for 150 children a day.

Catholic teachings are not taught at the preschool.

"Their teachers are all Muslims and speak in Arabic and they prepare them on Muslim religion," said sister Gloria Carrillero. "We did not come here with the purpose of doing proselytism. We came here just to help."

Catholics represent less than 1 percent of Morocco's population and most are foreign-born migrants. Morocco also has up to 6,000 homegrown converts to Christianity who are obliged to practice their faith privately because Morocco prohibits Muslim conversions.

These Moroccan converts often celebrate Masses in their homes and hide their religious affiliations for fear of prosecution and arrest. Yet many flocked to Francis' afternoon Mass in a Rabat sports stadium Sunday with the hope that the pope's visit would compel Moroccan authorities to be more tolerant of religious diversity.

"With this visit, we want to tell the pope and the Moroccan society that we are proud to be Christians," said Moroccan Christian Adam Rbati, who was attending the Mass with his Christian wife and newborn son. "It might not change much, but it will certainly create the space for future positive change."

Francis touched on the issue of religious freedom in his opening speech to King Mohammed VI on Saturday, urging Morocco to move beyond just freedom of worship to true respect for an individual's faith.

WORLD BRIEFS

New Zealand initiates bill to ban guns used in terror attack

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's government has introduced a bill to ban the types of weapons used by a terrorist to kill 50 people at two mosques. Police Minister Stuart Nash said Monday that if lawmakers pass the bill as expected, the new law will take effect April 12, less than a month after the March 15 attacks. The bill follows a government-imposed ban on sales of the weapons. The bill bans "military-style" semi-automatic guns and high-capacity magazines. It also bans semi-automatic shotguns that can be fitted with detachable magazines and pump-action shotguns that can hold more than five rounds. It doesn't ban guns often used by farmers and hunters, including semi-automatic .22-caliber or smaller guns that hold up to 10 rounds, or shotguns that hold up to five rounds.

Venezuela's Maduro announces power rationing amid outages

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Sunday announced a 30-day plan to ration electricity following nationwide power cuts that have inflicted misery on millions of people and ignited protests, including one near the presidential palace in Caracas. The rationing plan will help deal with the outages that have also cut off water supply and communications for days at a time, Maduro said in a speech on national television in which he also warned against any unrest in reaction to the blackouts. Hours before Maduro's appeal for calm, protests broke out in neighborhoods in the capital and other cities following a call by opposition leader Juan Guaido to demonstrate against the government's failure to provide basic services. Many took to balconies and building windows to bang pots in protest and shout curses at Maduro. They also burned trash and blocked roads.

At least 20 killed when fire erupts on bus in Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Authorities say at least 20 people were killed when a fire broke out in a bus at an informal stop on the northern outskirts of Peru's capital. Fire department spokesman Lewis Mejia said Sunday the blaze took place while the bus was at a stop where poor people catch buses, often at lower fares than the formal, more-regulated bus stops. Mejia told television station N most of the dead were on the second deck of the burned bus, which was from the company Sajy Bus. The vehicle didn't have fire extinguishers. It was reportedly an interprovincial bus heading to a northern city. According to the most recent figures, 2,826 people died in traffic accidents in Peru during 2017, most in crashes. There are few cases of deaths in bus fires.

Arab League rejects Trump's Israel policies at annual summit

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — The Arab League rejected the U.S. recognition of Israeli control over the Golan Heights and other Trump administration policies seen as unfairly biased toward Israel at an annual summit on Sunday, showcasing unity on one of the few issues that unites the regional bloc. Arab leaders also reiterated their commitment to resolving the conflict based on the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002, in which they would recognize Israel in return for a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights as well as east Jerusalem and the West Bank, lands occupied in the 1967 war. This year's Arab League summit, held in Tunisia, comes against a grim backdrop of ongoing wars in Syria and Yemen, rival authorities in Libya and a lingering boycott of Qatar by four fellow League members.

Overdrive

2020 Kia Telluride looks, rides like luxury SUV—without the price tag

By MARK PHELAN
Detroit Free Press

The 2020 Kia Telluride SUV's luxury, looks and prices should make it a hit. KIA/TNS

TELLURIDE, Colo.—The first great SUV of the year just arrived at your Kia dealership.

Elegant, advanced and costing thousands less than comparably equipped competitors, the 2020 Kia Telluride seven- or eight-seat SUV leaves three-row competitors in its dust.

Luxury SUVs better watch out, too.

Room for people, things

The Telluride is the biggest vehicle Kia's ever sold. Driving through the Colorado Rockies toward the former mining town the SUV is named for, headroom seemed as high as the surrounding mountains. Shoulder and knee room are equally accommodating, thanks to a design that maximizes interior space. The second row offers a bench or captain's chairs that slide to adjust third-row space. There's 21 cubic feet of cargo space behind the third row, more than the Pilot and Pathfinder.

The Telluride looks like a luxury vehicle, and not just because its styling reminds some of Range Rover. Classy exterior touches like amber running lights surrounding big rectangular dual-bulb projector headlights —LED on the SX model I drove —combine with a long hood, wide grille and subtle chrome trim for a look vehicles costing thousands more will envy. Interior options include perforated Nappa leather and a velvety, luxurious headliner.

Long but nimble, quiet on bumpy roads

At 196.9 inches long, the Telluride is longer than the Highlander, Pilot and Pathfinder, but it drives like a smaller vehicle.

The steering is responsive and direct. The ride was smooth over pothole ridden mountain roads and rough surfaces. The interior is exceptionally quiet, even at highway speeds.

The Telluride's 3.8L engine produces 291 hp, roughly in the middle of the pack. Acceleration and power are fine for slicing through traffic and long uphill stretches. The eight-speed automatic transmission shifts quickly and smoothly.

The Telluride can tow 5,000 pounds with a $795 towing package.

Wide range of prices, features

Telluride prices start at $31,690 for a front-wheel drive model. Add $2,000 for full-time all-wheel drive with modes for different terrain and a locking differential. A smooth eight-speed automatic transmission is standard equipment.

I tested a top-of-the-line AWD Telluride SX with the prestige package. Features included Nappa leather seat trim, navigation, 10.25-inch touch screen, head-up display that included speed limit and navigation instructions, 630-watt 10-speaker Harman Kardon audio, a velvety headliner, heated and ventilated second-row seats, memory for driver settings, dual sunroofs, 20-inch black wheels and much more. It stickered at $45,815, excluding destination charges.

Smartest, safest back seat on wheels

The Telluride has an exceptional number of standard safety and driver assistance features including:

- Front collision alert
- Pedestrian detection
- Automatic front braking
- Adaptive cruise control
- Blind spot alert with automatic evasive steering and braking if you're about to merge into another vehicle
- —Automatic braking if you're about to back into a crossing vehicle

The blind spot sensors don't stop working when the Telluride stops moving. They'll warn back-seat passengers if they're about to open a door into the path of an oncoming vehicle.

That's not the back seat's only trick. If you lock the vehicle and walk away with a child or pet in the back seat, motion sensors will beep the horn to remind you that you forgot somebody.

You can also mute the second- and third-row audio speakers, if somebody's napping, or the kids keep making fun of your taste in music. (Or they don't want the 'rents to hear choice lyrics in a rap song.)

I only noticed two oversights: The mechanism to fold the rear seats for more cargo space is a little difficult to operate with one hand, and there's no rear-seat video system. Kia dealers will offer them, but it'll be at least a model year before there's a factory installed system.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Kia Telluride at a glance

- **Model tested:** 2020 Kia Telluride SX V6 AWD
- **Engine:** 3.8L V-6
- **Transmission:** 8-speed automatic
- **Power:** 291 hp @ 6,000 rpm; 262 pound-feet of torque @ 5,200 rpm
- **Towing capacity:** 5,000 pounds with optional towing package
- **EPA fuel economy rating:** 19 mpg city/24 highway/21 combined. (FWD: 20/26/23) Regular gasoline.
- **Assembly location:** West Point, Ga.
- **Price as tested:** $45,815 (excluding destination charges)

Driving tips: Keep your cool when driving in a storm

By MARCO BUSCAGLIA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A sudden, torrential downpour can be unnerving to drivers.

Some drivers faced with heavy rain look for the nearest exit ramp to take shelter under a gas station canopy or in a nearby restaurant until the storm passes. Others turn on their hazards, reduce their speed and join other drivers in taking a slow, safe and methodical approach to move from Point A to Point B.

Then there are those who disregard their own safety and the safety of others, driving full speed ahead, standing water and limited visibility be damned.

Whether you're faced with a short-lived cloudburst of rain or a punishing, consistent downpour, here are a few things to keep in mind when driving in monsoon-like conditions:

■ Make your car is visible as possible. Assuming your vehicle is equipped with daylights or lights that turn on automatically when it's dark, be sure to turn your headlights on so that your taillights are on as well. Turning your hazards on helps, too. The idea is to improve your own line of vision and to be sure that other drivers can see all four corners of your vehicle.

■ Keep your brights off. Highbeam lights don't do much to improve visibility when it's raining and can impair your own vision and the vision of others because high, intense rays will bounce off the wet, reflective surfaces and into drivers' eyes.

■ Keep your distance. Following a car too closely is never a good idea, but it's especially important to maintain a safe distance when it is raining. You never know when the car in front of you will may have to stop or swerve, so it's best to give yourself enough room to react accordingly.

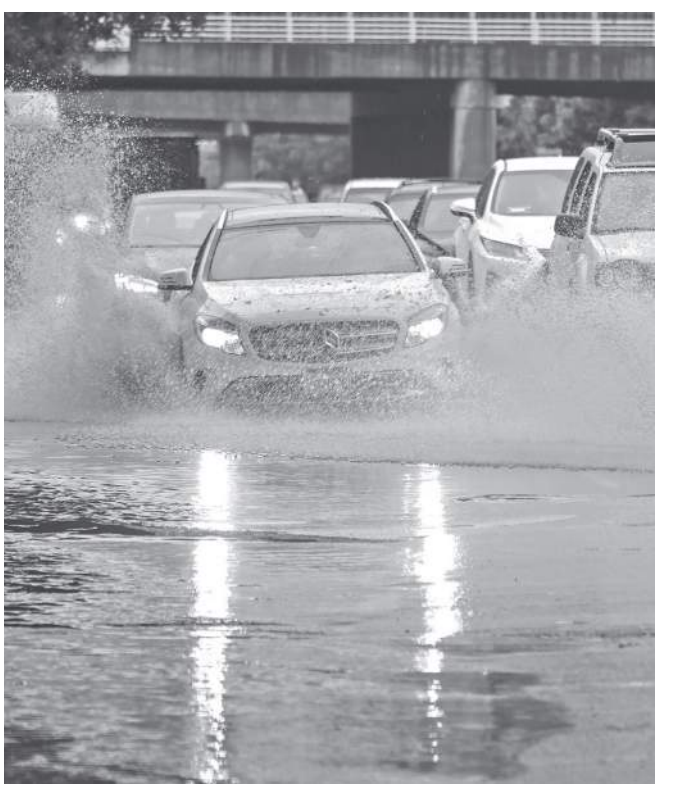
This also includes your proximity to the drivers in adjacent lanes. Be especially cautious when in another driver's blind spot. A quick swerve to avoid another car is much more dangerous when the road conditions aren't conducive to sudden adjustments.

■ Pay attention. Despite the many precautions we take, driving can sometimes be a go-through-the-motions activity, especially during long-distance trips. Drivers can be lulled into usual habits—continually adjusting their seat, fidgeting with an iPhone and digging into a bag of Andy Capp Hot Fries—even during heavy rain. But it's important not to get too comfortable when the weather isn't cooperating.

■ Turn off your cruise control, too. Not only is it ineffective and potentially dangerous if your car begins to hydroplane, it can also make you less reliant on your own instincts in case something happens. Above all, remain focused on the road ahead and tune out any distractions that could impact your response time.

■ Handle hydroplaning. If you remember Driver's Ed 101, you might recall that a vehicle driving 35 miles per hour through as little as one-twelfth of an inch of water is susceptible to partial hydroplaning, which occurs when a vehicle's tires lose traction. Standing water can separate the tires of cars traveling 60 miles per hour from the pavement, so it only makes sense to slow down.

If you begin hydroplaning, the American Automobile Association recommends taking your foot off the accelerator slowly and steering in the direction you want the car to go without making any sudden turns. If the vehicle begins to spin, you should slowly turn the wheel in the direction of the spin. Jerking the wheel can cause your car to flip.



Cars drive on a flooding road during a rain storm on Nov. 29, 2018 in Los Angeles. TNS

Life & Style

Officials say rapper Nipsey Hussle shot and killed at 33

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nipsey Hussle, the skilled and respected rapper who earned a Grammy nomination this year for his major-label debut and was heavily respected in South Los Angeles where he grew up, has died, authorities said. He was 33.

The Los Angeles Crisis Response team said Sunday that "we lost a great musician" and support has been offered to Hussle's family.

"Our prayers are with them and all those who knew and loved Nipsey Hussle," the crisis team said.

Police said three men were shot Sunday and one of them killed outside Marathon Clothing, the store Hussle owns. Police said the other two men were in stable condition.

Representatives for the rapper didn't immediately respond to emails seeking confirmation of his death.

A large crowd of fans and residents gathered behind police lines as night fell. Detectives were canvassing the area for witnesses and looking to see if any surveillance video captured the incident, police Lt. Chris Ramirez said.

Mayor Eric Garcetti tweeted his condolences Sunday.

"Our hearts are with the loved ones of Nipsey Hussle and everyone touched by this awful tragedy. L.A. is hurt deeply each time a young life is lost to senseless gun violence," Garcetti tweeted. "My Crisis Response Team is assisting the families coping with shock and grief."

Hussle, whose real name is Ermias Asghedom, was born on Aug. 15, 1985, in the Crenshaw neighborhood of south Los Angeles.

The Eritrean-American said his first passion was music but getting resources was tough since he left his mother's house at 14 to live with his grandmother. Hussle said he got involved in street life as he tried to support himself, and he joined the gang Rollin 60′s Neighborhood Crips as a teenager.

"The culture of my area is the gang culture ... so by being outside, being involved with hustling, being in the hood, doing things to try to get money, being young, you know riding your bike through the hood, getting shot at, your loved ones and homies that's your age getting killed, getting shot at ... it's like, we were just raised like if you with me and something goes now, I'm in it, whether I'm from the (expletive) or not," he said in a 2014 interview with VladTV. "So after a while it just be like you always in the middle of some (expletive), you might as well, you know what I mean ... be part of it. Or don't be a part of it and get the (expletive) out the way."

In this March 29, 2018, file photo, rapper Nipsey Hussle watches an NBA basketball game between the Golden State Warriors and the Milwaukee Bucks in Oakland, Calif. AP

Music eventually happened for Hussle. The proud West Coast rapper released a number of successful mixtapes that he sold out of the trunk of his car, helping him create a buzz and gain respect from rap purists and his peers. In 2010 he placed on hip-hop magazine XXL's "Freshman Class of 2010"—a coveted list for up-and-coming hip-hop acts—alongside J. Cole Big Sean, Wiz Khalifa, Jay Rock and others.

Hussle continued to build more hype for himself, and Jay-Z even bought 100 copies of Hussle's 2013 mixtape "Crenshaw" for $100 each, sending the budding rapper a $10,000 check.

But Hussle, who was once signed to Sony's Epic Records, hit a new peak with "Victory Lap," his critically acclaimed major-label debut album on Atlantic Records that made several best-of lists last year, from Billboard magazine to Complex. The album debuted at No. 4 on Billboard's 200 albums charts and featured collaborations with Kendrick Lamar, Diddy, CeeLo Green and more.

At this year's Grammy Awards, "Victory Lap" was one of five nominees for best rap album in a year that hip-hop dominated the pop charts and streaming services and a number of top stars released projects, including Drake, Eminem and Kanye West. Cardi B's "Invasion of Privacy" won the honor last month, while the other nominees were Travis Scott, Pusha T and Mac Miller.

"It's my debut album so for my first one (to be nominated) out the gate, it's like, it was overwhelming a little bit. It was ... inspiring, humbling," he said in an interview with the Recording Academy on the 2019 Grammys red carpet.

Hussle attended the Grammys with his daughter. The rapper was engaged to actress Lauren London.

The world mourned his death on social media Sunday. NBA star Steph Curry tweeted, "God please cover and restore @NipseyHussle right now!!!"

"This doesn't make any sense! My spirit is shaken by this!," Rihanna wrote on social media while posting photos of Hussle with his daughter and another with his fiance. "Dear God may His spirit Rest In Peace and May You grant divine comfort to all his loved ones! I'm so sorry this happened to you @nipseyhussle."

Snoop Dogg posted a video of himself and Hussle together on Instagram, and posted a second clip sending prayers to the rapper's family.

"Prayers out to the whole family man. This (stuff has) got to stop man," he said in the second video.

Rapper Nas mourned Hussle's death on Instagram and wrote, "It's dangerous to be an MC. Dangerous to be a b-ball player. It's dangerous to have money. Dangerous To Be A Black Man."

"So much hatred. We live like our brothers and sisters in third world countries live. Right in America," he continued. "Its so deep rooted. It's not a easy fix. Hard to fix anything when kids are still living in poverty. I ain't shutting up though, Nipsey is a True voice. He will never be silenced."

Outside of music, Hussle said he wanted to provide hope and motivation to those who grew up in Crenshaw like him, and pay it forward.

Rihanna, Snoop, Ice Cube react to death of Nipsey Hussle

■ "This doesn't make any sense! My spirit is shaken by this! Dear God may His spirit Rest In Peace and May You grant divine comfort to all his loved ones! ... I'm so sorry this happened to you @nipseyhussle"

—Rihanna, via Twitter.

■ "Our hearts are with the loved ones of Nipsey Hussle and everyone touched by this awful tragedy. LA is hurt deeply each time a young life is lost to senseless gun violence. My Crisis Response Team is assisting the families coping with shock and grief."

—LA Mayor Eric Garcetti on Twitter.

■ "Words cannot express our sadness. Nipsey was not only one of the greatest artists we worked with but an amazing father & leader in his community. One of the kindest & brightest stars in the universe, he was inspiring to all. We will miss him, his music & everything he stood for."

—Atlantic Records, Hussle's label, via Twitter.

■ "Prayers out to the whole family, man. This ... got to stop, man."

—Snoop Dogg in one of several Instagram videos he posted on Hussle.

■ "Sad, mad and disappointed about my guy @ Nipsey Hussle."

—Ice Cube, via Twitter.

■ "Watching Nipsey inspired me to invest and own in our communities. He was a solid man who loved his woman, his family and his community. This hurts."

—actress-writer Issa Rae on Twitter.

■ "This is so painful! @ NipseyHussle was doing great work for the people. Keep his legacy alive by carrying on his work! Sending love to his family. Rest in Power King"

—former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick on Twitter.

■ "Thoughts and prayers go out to @NipseyHussle's family and especially his children... hope they receive every ounce of strength and positivity the universe is sending them right now #RIPNipsey."

—New York Knicks player DeAndre Jordan via Twitter.

■ "REST IN PEACE NIPSEY HUSSLE."

—rapper Vince Staples, via Twitter.

■ "It's dangerous to be an MC. Dangerous to be a b-ball player. It's dangerous to have money. Dangerous To Be A Black Man ... So much hatred. We live like our brothers and sisters in third world countries live. Right in America ... Its so deep rooted. It's not a easy fix. Hard to fix anything when kids are still living in poverty. I ain't shutting up though, Nipsey is a True voice. He will never be silenced."

—rapper Nas on Instagram.

■ "Nipsey you a legend. I respect and admire your career path and what you did for the neighborhood. My heart broke today when I saw the news. I'm praying for your loved ones. This was sposed to be the year we got one in. God had bigger plans for you."

—rapper J. Cole, via Twitter.

■ "Thinking of all the positive things Nipsey Hussle brought to the community he loved so dearly."

—journalist and commentator Tamron Hall on Instagram.

Publishers plan bound editions of Mueller report

NEW YORK (AP)—When Attorney General William Barr releases a redacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report on the Russia investigation, several publishers will be ready to put it out in book form.

Barr notified Congressional leaders Friday that he expects to send them his report by mid-April. Mueller's findings are nearly 400 pages excluding tables and appendices, and Barr said Friday that material removed will include information related to ongoing investigations or that compromise sensitive sources. He added that President Donald Trump would not be reviewing the report in advance.

Government studies are not copyrighted and can be published by anyone. Melville House, Skyhorse Publishing and Scribner, in conjunction with The Washington Post, are among those with both print and digital editions planned, within two weeks or less of the report coming out. As with previous releases such as "The 9-11 Commission Report," the Mueller text also will likely be available for free from a government web site, but publishers plan to add their own analysis. The Skyhorse book will include an introduction by attorney Alan Dershowitz, a frequent Trump defender. The Scribner release will feature commentary from the Post's staff.

Melville House plans no analysis, saying the report should be seen "as is."

"It's supposed to be a non-partisan document, and readers should be given the respect of experiencing it without someone digesting it for them," Melville publisher Dennis Johnson said in a statement,

Barr's summary of Mueller's highly-anticipated report said that the investigation didn't find a criminal conspiracy between Russia and Donald Trump's campaign to swing the 2016 presidential election. Mueller's report did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice, but Barr said he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein decided on their own that Mueller's evidence was insufficient to establish that the president committed obstruction.

Some government publications have become popular books, notably the Warren Commission report on President John F. Kennedy's assassination and the "Starr Report" on President Bill Clinton's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. An edition of the 9-11 Commission study, published in 2004, was a million seller and a finalist for the National Book Award. As of Friday afternoon, the Scribner and Skyhorse editions of the Mueller report were in the top 1,000 on Amazon.com.

After shocking NY arrest, Avenatti faces court in California

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A week after Michael Avenatti's shocking arrest in New York, the attorney famous for representing porn star Stormy Daniels in legal battles against President Donald Trump will be back in federal court Monday to face fraud charges in California.

The brash lawyer faces a hearing in the Orange County city of Santa Ana on charges he fraudulently obtained $4 million in bank loans and pocketed $1.6 million that belonged to a client. Avenatti has long faced allegations from a former client and a former partner that he was hiding money to avoid paying what he owed.

Now, federal authorities are adding their voices to that chorus, with the specter of a long prison sentence that could be the downfall of a man who once considered challenging Trump in his re-election bid.

Avenatti

Avenatti, 48, is charged with wire and bank fraud. He was arrested last week in New York and released on $300,000 bail on unrelated extortion charges. He has said he expects to be exonerated.

Federal prosecutors in New York allege that Avenatti tried to shake down Nike for millions of dollars so he wouldn't reveal allegations the apparel company paid off high school basketball players. He has denied the charge to reporters and began tweeting what he called evidence of the scandal the day after he was arrested.

In California, federal prosecutors said Avenatti filed bogus tax returns to fraudulently secure $4 million in loans from a Mississippi bank and embezzled a client's settlement funds.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Herb Ritts photos of Bowie, Madonna, more to be exhibited

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—The work of famed celebrity and fashion photographer Herb Ritts is going on display at an upstate New York museum. "Herb Ritts: The Rock Portraits" highlights the six new exhibits opening Monday at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown. Ritts was one of the world's most famous photographers in the 1980s and '90s, when he became known for his elegant portraits of supermodels, rock musicians and Hollywood stars. The Fenimore exhibit, organized by the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, includes Ritts photographs of such music icons as David Bowie, Tina Turner, Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, Bob Dylan, Prince and Madonna. Ritts died of complications from AIDS in 2002. The Ritts exhibit runs through Labor Day, Sept. 2.

Judge refuses to put off sex slave trial

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge has denied a request by TV actress Allison Mack for more time to negotiate a plea deal in the sex-trafficking case against an upstate New York self-help group. Lawyers for Mack had asked federal Judge Nicholas Garaufis to delay a trial that's set to begin next month. Mack is best known for her role playing a young Superman's close friend in the CW network series "Smallville." Prosecutors have accused her of recruiting sex slaves for Keith Raniere and his cult-like organization called NXIVM. Raniere has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy charges. Two members of his inner circle have pleaded guilty, while Mack and two other co-defendants are seeking separate trials. There was no immediate response to a message on Saturday seeking comment from one of Mack's lawyers.

Barbara Bush's dislike of Trump dates to at least 1990

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barbara Bush didn't bite her tongue in when it came to Donald Trump: She just didn't like him.

But a new biography of the former first lady finds that her disdain for the Republican president, who transformed the party her own family had embodied for generations into his likeness, dates as least as far back as a 1990s diary entry in which she referred to Trump as "the real symbol of greed in the 80s."

The story is revealed in "The Matriarch: Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty," by Susan Page, USA Today's Washington bureau chief.

Before her death last April at age 92, Mrs. Bush allowed Page to read her diaries, which she began keeping in 1948.

The biography is due in stores Tuesday.

Live-action 'Dumbo' struggles to soar at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Disney's "Dumbo" isn't exactly taking flight at the North American box office the way its other live-action remakes of animated classics have.

The Walt Disney Co. said Sunday that the Tim Burton-directed film has earned an estimated $45 million domestically from 4,259 locations against a $170 million production budget. It's less than half of what "Beauty and the Beast," "The Jungle Book" and Burton's own "Alice in Wonderland" opened to.

The remake of the 1941 animated film stars Colin Farrell and Danny DeVito. It got mixed to negative reviews from critics and currently has a middling 53 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

Audiences who did turn out, however, had a different response than the critics and gave the film an A- overall, according to CinemaScore.

"We think it's a solid start," said Cathleen Taff, Disney's president of theatrical distribution. "We're encouraged and hopeful with audience word of mouth."

Internationally, "Dumbo" grossed $71 million, with $10.7 million coming from China, $7.4 million from the U.K. and $7.2 million from Mexico.

Disney has two other high-profile live-action remakes coming out this year in "Aladdin" (May 24) and "The Lion King" (July 19).

AP

This image released by Disney shows Nico Parker, left, in a scene from "Dumbo."

"I don't think this is a mandate against live-action remakes. But sometimes when you don't have the reviews, it can affect it," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. "For Disney, the bar is set so high. This is just a little speed bump on what is already a spectacular year for Disney."

"Dumbo" did bump Jordan Peele's "Us" to second place. "Us" added $33.6 million, down only 53%, bringing its domestic total to $128.2 million in its second week. The Lupita Nyong'o doppelganger movie cost only $20 million to produce.

"For a horror, which generally have the scariest drops in the business, 'Us' is really holding in there," Dergarabedian said. "It's good news for Jordan Peele."

1. **"Dumbo,"** $45 million ($71 million international).
2. **"Us,"** $33.6 million ($22.6 million international).
3. **"Captain Marvel,"** $20.5 million ($26.4 million international).
4. **"Five Feet Apart,"** $6.3 million ($6.2 million international).
5. **"Unplanned,"** $6.1 million.
6. **"Wonder Park,"** $4.9 million ($2.5 million international).
7. **"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,"** $4.2 million ($2.6 million international).
8. **"Hotel Mumbai,"** $3.2 million ($640,227 international).
9. **Tyler Perry's "A Madea Family Funeral,"** $2.7 million ($35,000 international).
10. **"The Beach Bum,"** $1.8 million ($427,000 international).

Easing the "Dumbo" disappointment, Disney and Marvel's "Captain Marvel" landed in third place in weekend four with an additional $20.5 million. It's now earned over $350 million in North America and is expected to cross the $1 billion mark globally sometime this week.

The teen drama/romance "Five Feet Apart" with Cole Sprouse and Haley Lu Richardson took fourth place with $6.3 million, down only 27% in its third week.

And the pregnancy movie "Unplanned" rounded out the top five with $6.1 million from only 1,059 theaters. It's another success for Pure Flix, which targets the faith-based audience.

"Serving that underserved audience can pay off quite well," Dergarabedian said.

Not so lucky was "The Beach Bum," a stoner-odyssey from the provocative filmmaker Harmony Korine starring Matthew McConaughey. It grossed only $1.8 million from 1,100 locations in its first weekend.

The weekend overall is down around 2% and the year is still lagging about 16.4%.

"Next week is going to have two of the biggest genres hitting the multiplex simultaneously," noted Dergarabedian. The well-reviewed superhero pic "Shazam!" debuts along with a "Pet Sematary" remake.

Mom objects to unsoliciated advice about breastfeeding

DEAR ABBY: I am a new mother to a perfect baby boy. Everywhere I go—the grocery store, my front yard, my daughter's school—people ask, "You are breastfeeding, right?" Why should it matter to strangers whether or not I'm breastfeeding my baby? It has no effect on them whatsoever. It's a personal decision. What's worse is when I have formula in my shopping cart and someone stops to lecture me about breastfeeding.

People need to stop shaming mothers for using formula and quit asking questions that are none of their business. It's a personal choice and not up for discussion. As long as a mother is feeding her baby, she's doing a great job.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

DEAR MYOB: As well-meaning as these individuals may be, I agree it is none of their beeswax how you nourish your baby. Why not give them tit for tat? Tell them you plan to raise your baby without their input and you don't appreciate their comments. Then walk on and continue your shopping.

DEAR ABBY: As I write this, I am shaking with frustration. My dear dad died a week ago. I put an obituary in the paper and online that requested in lieu of flowers to please donate to two specific noncontroversial charities.

I'm sitting here surrounded by NINE plants and bouquets of flowers! I'm so upset each time another one is delivered. My house looks like a funeral parlor. I don't have the time to take them to a hospital, so I'm tossing them. I would like to help cure the cancer that claimed my dad. Each plant reminds me of a waste of money.

Please remind people to respect the wishes of the family.

GRIEVING DAUGHTER IN WISCONSIN

DEAR DAUGHTER: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your father. Your desire to contribute to cancer research is understandable considering the circumstances. It's possible that friends and acquaintances who saw his obituary didn't read carefully through it and sent the offerings on impulse. Or perhaps they did both. But your comments have merit, which is why I'm printing them.

DEAR ABBY: Why is love such a hard thing to find? I am a boy who often feels alone. I have never experienced true love, even though I often meet girls I'd like to be with. What holds me back is the fear of approaching and talking to them.

My fear puts me in despair, and I feel lonely. What would you suggest to overcome these feelings so I can find happiness?

OUTSIDER IN HAWAII

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR OUTSIDER: True love is usually built on friendship. Friendships are generally based on common interests. What are the things you are interested in?

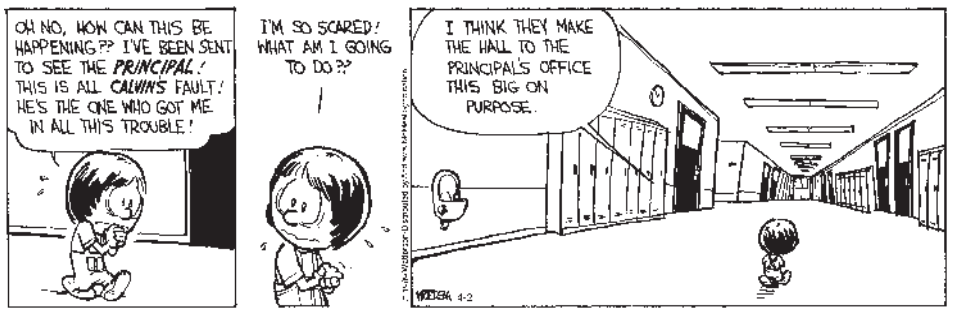
You call yourself a "boy," so I assume you are still in school. Consider joining clubs and activities that are offered there, such as sports, drama or music. Churches sponsor activities for youth, as well. Sign up for them and you will increase your chances of making friends.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

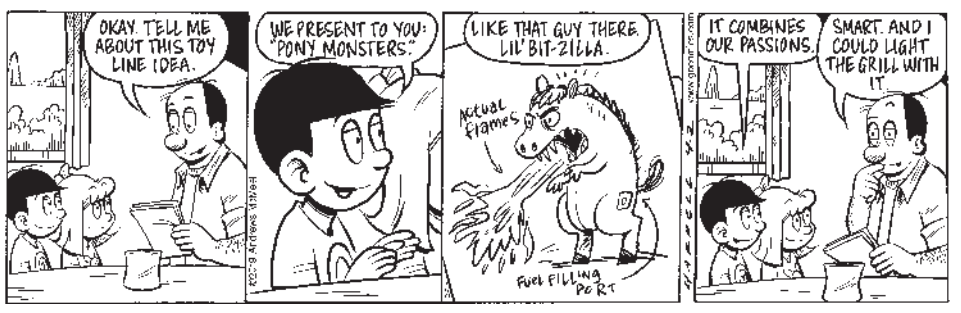

OH NO, HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING?? I'VE BEEN SENT TO SEE THE PRINCIPAL! THIS IS ALL CALVIN'S FAULT! HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT ME IN ALL THIS TROUBLE!
I'M SO SCARED! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO??
I THINK THEY MAKE THE HALL TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE THIS BIG ON PURPOSE.
4-2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. TELL ME ABOUT THIS TOY LINE IDEA.
WE PRESENT TO YOU: "PONY MONSTERS."
I LIKE THAT GUY THERE. LIL' BIT-ZILLA.
Actual Flames
Fuel FILLING PORT
IT COMBINES OUR PASSIONS.
SMART. AND I COULD LIGHT THE GRILL WITH IT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

"DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIX A LOOSE THINGAMABOB?"
SURE- YOU GOTTA TURN THE DOOHICKY A HALF-TURN TO THE LEFT AND LONGER THE THINGAMAJIG ABOUT YEA-MUCH."
I ALWAYS LIKE LISTENING TO THE "DADS REPAIR SHOW."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chantilly, e.g.
5 Chicken —
9 Leg, in slang
12 Mr. Stravinsky
13 Sparkling Italian wine
14 Have bills
15 Bouncing toy
17 Retrieve
18 Ruby and Sandra
19 Apple products
21 Buy more Time?
24 Handle
25 New Mexico resort
26 Monotonous
30 Work unit
31 Chair designer Charles
32 Odometer start
33 Winter road clearer
35 Remain
36 Church area
37 Buckwheat porridge
38 Physicist Enrico
40 Slightly
42 White House nickname
43 Company emblems
48 Grazing land
49 Scott Turow book
50 Valentine flower
51 Curvy letter
52 Yuletide tune
53 Faction

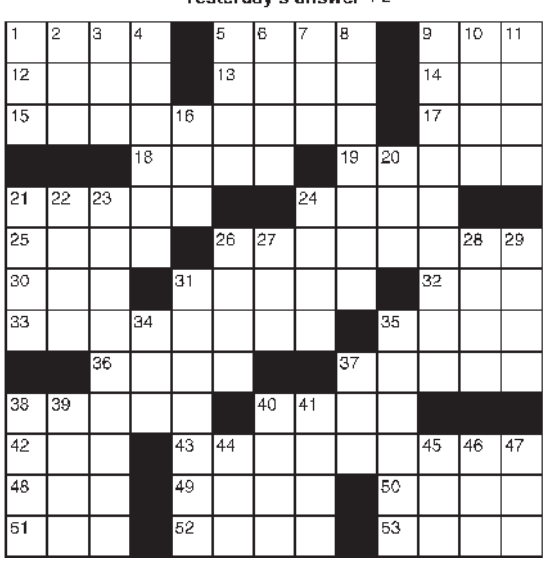
DOWN

1 Back talk
2 In the past
3 Gear tooth
4 Wears away
5 Winslet of "Titanic"
6 Egyptian deity
7 Listending abbr.
8 Minnesota footballers
9 '60s footwear
10 Dumbstruck
11 Citi Field team
16 Stitch
20 Not neg.
21 Numbered rds.
22 Deserve
23 Restricted zones
24 Recognized
26 Shopper's delight
27 "As I see it," to a texter
28 Ancient mariner
29 Maja painter
31 Delta follower
34 Typing speed stat
35 Nymph pursuers
37 Tool set
38 Dossier
39 Stretches (out)
40 Baseball's Tommie
41 Weevil's target
44 Music's Yoko
45 "Ulalume" writer
46 Computer key
47 Filming site

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	S	I	F		B	I	B		H	A		L
L	I	T	C	R	A	T	I		U	R	S	A
P	C	T	C	B	C	S			M	A	L	I
			B	I	Z		B	O	A	T	E	R
F	O	A	L	S		C	Y	A	N			
E	R	I	E		G	A	B	F	E	S	T	
W	A	D		T	L	N	I	S		K		D
	L	A	B	T	E	S			V	I	N	E
			L	O	S	T		R		P	E	N
S	T	O	O	P	S		B	E	E			
E	R	I	N		W	I	L	D	W	E	S	T
A	U	L	D		H	O	O	S	E	G	O	W
M	E	S	S		O	N		H	O	S	A	

Yesterday's answer 4-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Fassbender, 42; Christopher Meloni, 58; Emmylou Harris, 72; Linda Hunt, 74.

Happy Birthday: Be secretive this year. The less others know about your plans, the better it will be for you. Keep your financial assets, personal information and passwords hidden to avoid theft or someone meddling in your affairs. Playing it safe will be the quickest route to achieving your goals and the success you desire. Your numbers are 2, 10, 19, 26, 30, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take better care of your health and physical well-being. Overdoing it will lead to exhaustion or injury. Pay close attention to information being shared. Verify what you hear before you decide to spend money or make a vocational move. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Personal change will have a positive effect on someone you love, not to mention help you out when it comes to attitude, business and getting things done. A passionate approach to life will be better than channeling your energy into anxiety and excess. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take a moment to reconsider your next move. Don't get snowed into something that will do you more harm than good. Living in moderation and following your own path will prove to be beneficial. Keep your emotions under control. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do your own thing and enjoy. Live in the moment, and say no to anyone prompting you to be indulgent or lavish in any way. Focus on personal improvements, love and ensuring that important relationships are heading in positive directions. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Shine brightly, but don't make promises you cannot deliver. Your heart may be in the right place, but your reputation will suffer if you are too accommodating. Only agree to what's doable, and make changes that are necessary. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Simplify your life by sticking to the people you can trust and the prospects that are worthwhile. Learn as you go, and base each move you make on logistics. A domestic or professional change should be made for the right reason. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take positive action when it comes to your relationships with others and choosing friends who have as much to offer as you do. Refuse to let anyone dictate what you can do. Be honest but not too revealing. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Get out and participate in events and activities that are conducive to connecting with people who can help you get ahead. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll enjoy sharing your success with someone you love. Personal improvements are featured. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your personal thoughts and information to yourself in order to avoid someone taking advantage of you. Stick close to home, and keep your loyalty where it belongs. Don't overdo it physically, and protect yourself emotionally. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Old friends and lovers will have an impact on your day if you reach out. A change at home will be in your best interest. Don't hesitate to engage in something that encourages you to revisit an old dream. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Listen carefully and pursue your goals on your own. Your best effort will come from taking care of personal affairs that can be done only by you. Leave no stone unturned, and stick to a plan that is realistic. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You may feel like sharing your opinion, but don't make someone angry in the process. Offering too much information can have a devastating effect on a friendship or your relationship with a sibling. Offer help, understanding and compassion. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious, original and sensitive. You are passionate and expressive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	4	8			7	6
7							5
4			9				
9				7			
8	7				5		1
		6					4
			4				2
6						3	
3	2			5	9	8	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	8	5	7	4	1	2	6	3
1	2	7	6	3	9	8	4	5
4	3	6	5	8	2	7	1	9
5	1	9	3	7	4	6	8	2
3	6	8	2	1	5	4	9	7
2	7	4	9	6	8	5	3	1
7	9	3	4	2	6	1	5	8
6	5	1	8	9	7	3	2	4
8	4	2	1	5	3	9	7	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SQUINTING **Solution: 8 letters**

A	D	N	E	E	N	E	P	O	P	T	I	C	A	L
E	F	E	E	C	T	H	G	I	S	E	Y	E	E	A
V	W	A	Y	V	N	I	S	I	G	N	S	T	S	R
I	Y	R	R	E	I	A	R	A	I	N	N	E	T	E
R	B	S	I	P	S	T	L	W	E	E	O	E	R	H
D	E	I	A	N	E	S	C	L	Y	D	I	F	A	P
I	P	G	N	M	K	S	O	E	I	A	S	S	B	I
A	E	H	O	O	P	L	W	R	R	E	I	W	I	R
G	E	T	S	E	C	E	E	O	C	R	V	O	S	E
N	P	E	E	L	A	U	A	S	D	L	O	R	M	P
O	U	D	S	R	A	D	L	E	R	A	O	C	U	O
S	P	E	P	I	W	N	D	A	N	R	H	S	S	S
I	I	N	O	I	T	A	T	I	R	R	I	S	E	I
S	L	P	R	A	R	E	I	R	I	S	O	S	S	D
Y	F	E	D	K	N	I	L	B	E	R	A	C	K	E

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Afar, Binoculars, Blink, Care, Closed, Cornea, Corrective, Cross-eyed, Crow's Feet, Dark, Deep, Defy, Diagnosis, Drive, Drops, Eyesight, Eyewear, Iris, Irritation, Lens, Nearsighted, Open, Optical, Optometrist, Page, Peep, Peripheral, Pupil, Rain, Rare, Read, Risk, Shadows, Side, Signs, Slant, Strabismus, Surveillance, Vision, Wipe, Wrinkles, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Cardiologist

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD**, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 9:30am
BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room
Lower Gualo Rai, Middle Road, Saipan

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of December 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
A. CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-111, Amendment 2019-1
Project: **ISA VILLA MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX PROJECT** — The proposed expansion project is the Phase II construction of the Isa Villas Multifamily Development Complex which includes 86 additional housing units. With this expansion, the multifamily complex would have a total of 6 concrete buildings with 113 housing units, 150 regular parking spaces and 6 ADA-compliant parking stalls, a communal/recreational space, community center, and driveway. The project is located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, on Lot No. 150 E 30. Estimated cost for the construction of the multifamily complex is about $25, 132, 125.19.

1. Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
2. Agencies' Permit Conditions
3. CRM Permit Application Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS
IV. ADJOURNMENT

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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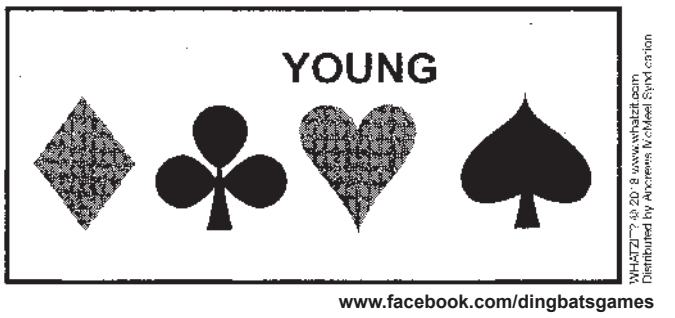
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Michigan State knocks off Zion-led Duke

WASHINGTON (AP)— Cassius Winston missed an open jump shot but was right there for the rebound. Without hesitating, he stepped back and swished a 3-pointer.

"Now is not the time to doubt yourself," Winston said. "Now's not the time to shy away from those big moments."

The biggest moment for Michigan State is still to come after Winston led the Spartans back to the Final Four for the first time since 2015.

Michigan State beat Duke 68-67 on Sunday to knock the overall top seed out of the NCAA Tournament in what likely was the end of Zion Williamson's college career. Winston took over the game when his team faced its biggest deficit, stealing the show from Williamson with 20 points and 10 assists in a do-it-all performance fittingly with Magic Johnson there to see it.

"I was locked in," Winston said with smile and a piece of one of the nets tucked into his Final Four hat. "I wanted to do everything I could for my team to get us to that point. We've been working way too hard to stop now."

Winston didn't know how many shots he took but never hesitated to put the ball up. He was 9 of 23 and never shied away from taking it at Duke and shooting at nearly every opportunity in the East Region final.

The Big Ten Player of the Year and East Region Most Outstanding Player made or assisted on 19 of Michigan State's 30 field goals.

"Winston was the difference maker," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "He was either scoring or assisting. He's the best guard we've played against."

AP

Duke forward Zion Williamson (1) and Michigan State forward Xavier Tillman (23) jump for control of the ball during the opening tip off in the first half of an NCAA men's East Regional final college basketball game in Washington, Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Williamson, the presumptive top pick in the NBA Draft and biggest star of this NCAA Tournament, had a game-high 24 points and 14 rebounds. He said it was a "high possibility" this was his final game at Duke.

"We're very upset, obviously, but congrats to Michigan State," Williamson said. "Just looking around the locker room and see your teammates, your brothers and you just think this group will probably never play together again."

Michigan State's veteran-laden team will have another chance Saturday in one regional semifinal against Texas Tech in Minneapolis. Virginia faces Auburn in the other.

"We're not done yet, and it feels good," senior guard Matt McQuaid said.

Winston carried the Spartans into the Final Four , but they received a huge boost from their oldest player. Kenny Goins, a fifth-year walk-on senior who missed his first four 3-point attempts, drained the go-ahead shot with 34.3 seconds left to put Michigan State up 68-66.

"I was out there, great pass, trusted it and let it go and it went down," said Goins, the only player left from 2015 when Duke beat Michigan State in the Final Four during his redshirt season. "As soon as I let it go, I knew it was good. I was ready to celebrate, but I knew I had to get back on defense."

Duke had the chance to tie but freshman star RJ Barrett missed the first of two free throws with 5.2 seconds left. Duke was helpless with only four fouls, and Winston was able to get the ball away from the Duke defenders and dribble out the clock.

Auburn 77, Kentucky 71, OT

In Kansas City, the confetti was still swirling around Auburn coach Bruce Pearl when he gazed over a team headed to the first Final Four in school history and declared, "This one was for Chuma!"

"The next two," Pearl added with a triumphant grin, "are for Auburn."

Drawing inspiration from injured forward Chuma Okeke, the No. 5 seed Tigers finished off a joyful romp through college basketball royalty by bringing down the winningest program of all. Their 77-71 overtime win over second-seeded seed Kentucky in the finals of the Midwest Region on Sunday came after blowouts of Kansas and North Carolina that served notice: Auburn is more than a football school.

Jared Harper led the way with 26 points, including the tying basket in regulation and a crucial series of layups in overtime. Bryce Brown added 24 points and Anfernee McLemore came up big in the extra session, helping Auburn (30-9) set a school record for wins with its 12th straight overall.

"We wanted to make history," Pearl said. "You have to understand, at Auburn in athletics, we're not Cinderellas in anything. We're really, really good in all those other sports. We win championships. Been a long time since men's basketball has been good."

Okeke was there in more than just spirit, too. The sophomore forward, who tore his ACL in the final minutes against the Tar Heels, was rolled behind the bench in a wheelchair early in the second half.

He was still there when the wild celebration finally began.

"Moving him to the gym, sitting him on the bench — he doesn't want the camera on him," Pearl said. "He must have been watching the first half at the hotel and said, 'I can't stay here. I got to go.'"

The Tigers had only reached the Elite Eight once before, and that was 33 years ago. But after twice losing to Kentucky during the regular season, they rose to the occasion on the game's biggest stage.

Next stop: the Final Four and a national semifinal date with Virginia.

"I'm so glad we came out and battled the whole entire 40 minutes for Chuma," Brown said. "If he was out there, he would have made a huge difference."

Auburn forced overtime when Harper made a tying layup with 38 seconds left, and the diminutive guard added the first four points of the extra session. And when Ashton Hagans scored for Kentucky, it was McLemore who added back-to-back baskets that forced the Wildcats to play catch-up.

They never made it all the way back.

Samir Doughty made the second of two free throws to give Auburn a cushion with 16.1 seconds to go, and the Wildcats' Keldon Johnson misfired at the other end, wrapping up a victory that surely sent the Tigers' fan base streaming to Toomer's Corner.

"They played aggressive. They played tough. They bumped and it was a grinding-type game," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "They deserved to win the game."

Kisner gets it right at Match Play

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)— Kevin Kisner can't think of another tournament that made him grind so hard.

He began the Dell Technologies Match Play with a loss in the opening round. He had to play 120 holes over five days. Three matches were decided on the 18th hole. He had to play three sudden-death playoff holes just to get to the weekend. And on Sunday morning, he faced a cold wind that made temperatures feel like the upper 30s.

It all felt worth it when he made good on his second try at winning golf's most unpredictable tournament.

Kisner outlasted British Open champion Francesco Molinari in the semifinals, and then let Matt Kuchar make the untimely mistakes Sunday afternoon until Kisner closed him out with a 20-foot putt for a 3-and-2 victory.

"Grueling, not only from the mental side, but the physical side," Kisner said. "A lot of golf and a lot of stressful holes and stressful putts."

But then, that's how he got here in the first place.

Kisner, who won $1,745,000 for his first World Golf Championships title, recalls his father staking him $16,000 to see if he could make it as a pro golfer. He won his third tournament on the mini-tours, and when his bank account reached $40,000, he thought he was rich.

The lesson along the way: Make putts or lose money.

That's what works at the Match Play, and he delivered enough key moments to capture the biggest win of his career.

"It was a long week. I prevailed. And I'm a world golf champion," Kisner said.

He became the first player to win Match Play after losing in the championship match the previous year.

"If you'd have told me I'd be sitting here 10 years ago, I would probably have said you were crazy," Kisner said. "I think it shows in my grind. That's what I do. I've had ups and downs throughout it. I've won on every tour, every level. And had tremendous downfalls on every tour and every level. So I pride myself in the way I pick myself up and keep grinding."

Last year wasn't close, as Bubba Watson raced out to a big lead and ended the match on the 12th hole. Kisner never trailed against Kuchar, which didn't make it any easier. Kuchar had a 12-foot putt to win his second straight hole and tie the match on No. 10, with momentum sure to follow.

He missed, and on his next swing, Kuchar put his tee shot in the water on the par-3 11th.

Kisner, equipped with a 2-up lead, took it from there. He made putts from 6 feet and 4 feet to halve holes, and seized control on the 15th when Kuchar's chip was too strong and led to another lost hole.

"It's tough to maintain the high level of play the entire tournament," Kuchar said. "You hope to do it and I feel like I've kind of built a game that I could rely on playing some good, steady golf. But I gave too many holes away. I knew against Kisner I couldn't do it, and he just plodded along ... and let me make mistakes. And that was good playing by Kevin."

Yelich ties MLB record, lifts Brewers over Cards

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Christian Yelich hit his fourth homer in the first inning and a two-run double in the ninth, leading the Milwaukee Brewers to a dramatic 5-4 win over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

Ben Gamel led off the ninth with a pinch-hit double and advanced on Lorenzo Cain's infield single off reliever Jordan Hicks' glove. Yelich then hit a liner into the gap in left-center, driving in Gamel and Cain.

Yelich tossed his helmet in the air in celebration as Cain slid face first across the plate, giving Milwaukee three wins in its opening four-game set against rival St. Louis. Yelich's teammates rushed the field and doused the reigning NL MVP with Gatorade in a raucous celebration at second.

Yelich began his day with a long drive into the second deck in right against Michael Wacha, tying the major league record for homers in consecutive games to start a season. He also became the first player to win the MVP award and then homer in his first four games of the next season.

Paul Goldschmidt, Matt Carpenter and Paul DeJong homered for St. Louis, but Hicks (0-1) blew his first save opportunity of the season. Wacha struck out seven while pitching six innings of one-run ball.

The Cardinals got a scare in the ninth when Kolten Wong dove to steal second and got hit right below the left ear by Yasmani Grandal's throw. Second baseman Mike Moustakas quickly signaled to the Cardinals' dugout for help. Wong eventually got up and remained in the game.

AP

Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich is congratulated after hitting a home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Phillies 5, Braves 1

In Phillies, Bryce Harper homered for the second straight game to cap a fantastic debut weekend and Philadelphia completed a three-game sweep of Atlanta.

Harper connected on a solo shot to right off Shane Carle in the seventh inning that had the crowd resuming its "MVP!" chants from a day earlier and the Phillie Phanatic dancing atop the dugout. Carle then drilled cleanup hitter Rhys Hoskins on the left shoulder and was ejected from the game, and Phillies fans taunted him with a mock tomahawk chop.

The sweep was complete—and it's time for an early reunion.

Mariners 10, Red Sox 8

In Seattle, Omar Narvaez hit a three-run homer off Rick Porcello in the Mariners' seven-run third inning.

Dee Gordon had two hits and three RBIs as Seattle put together another impressive performance at the plate. The Mariners scored 34 times while taking three of four from the defending World Series champions in their first series at home.

Nationals 6, Mets 5

In Washington, Trea Turner homered twice, including a game-ending solo shot, and the Nationals beat New York for its first win of the season.

Turner earlier hit a three-run homer and also scored in the fifth to put the Nationals up 4-1. They let a 5-2 lead evaporate in the eighth before Turner ended it with a drive off Justin Wilson (0-1).

Orioles 7, Yankees 5

In New York, Renato Nunez, Trey Mancini and Joey Rickard hit Baltimore's first home runs of the year, and the Orioles beat the Yankees in a game delayed more than three hours by rain.

Coming off a 115-loss season under Buck Showalter, the Orioles and new manager Brandon Hyde opened by taking two of three from the 100-win Yankees. Baltimore hadn't won two in a row since August.

Padres 3, Giants 1

In San Diego, Manny Machado drove in the go-ahead run with a bases-loaded grounder for San Diego in the seventh inning.

Chris Paddack struck out seven in five impressive innings in his major league debut. Four pitchers combined on a two-hitter for the Padres, who took three of four from the Giants.

Rangers 11, Cubs 10

In Arlington, Joey Gallo scored on a wild pitch in the ninth inning, sending the Rangers to the win.

With one out in the ninth and the Cubs playing five infielders, Gallo raced home from third base when Pedro Strop's pitch to Nomar Mazara bounced past catcher Willson Contreras.

The Rangers took the series after the Cubs' 12-4 victory on opening day. Jose Leclerc (1-0) got four outs for the win.

Rays 3, Astros 1

In St. Petersburg, Yonny Chirinos covered splendidly for a taxed bullpen, Austin Meadows hit his second homer and Tampa Bay took three of four games from Houston.

The Rays had planned to use an opener for the first time this season, but manager Kevin Cash instead turned to the 25-year-old Chirinos (1-0) rather than push his fatigued relievers. Chirinos pitched seven innings of one-run ball. The only run came on Jake Marisnick's homer in the sixth.

White Sox 6, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Lucas Giolito took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning in his first start of the season, and Chicago avoided a three-game sweep.

Giolito (1-0) walked Whit Merrifield on four pitches to begin the game, but then retired 19 straight before Alex Gordon's single with one out in the seventh. Gordon fouled off four consecutive pitches before lining a curve ball into center field.

Twins 9, Indians 3

In Minneapolis, Nelson Cruz hit his first homer with Minnesota, and Michael Pineda was stellar in his first pitching appearance since 2017.

Pineda had Tommy John surgery after his previous start July 5, 2017 while with the New York Yankees, and this was his first time back on a big league mound. Pineda pitched four scoreless innings, striking out five with one hit and one walk.

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 7

In Los Angeles, A.J. Pollock hit a key two-run double during the Dodgers' eighth-inning rally.

Pollock tied it at 7 with a shot down the line against Yoshihisa Hirano (0-1) and advanced to third when right fielder Adam Jones misplayed the ball. Pollock, a former Diamondback who signed with Los Angeles this offseason, scored on Max Muncy's sacrifice fly.

Tigers 4, Blue Jays 3, 11 innings

In Toronto, Nicholas Castellanos singled home the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, Jeimer Candelario had five hits and Detroit defeated the Blue Jays after blowing a late lead.

Castellanos' decisive hit came off Thomas Pannone (0-1), the eighth Blue Jays pitcher, and the Tigers salvaged a split of the four-game series.

Marlins 3, Rockies 0

In Miami, Sandy Alcantara pitched eight crisp innings for the Rockies, and Jorge Alfaro drove in two runs.

Alcantara (1-0) allowed four hits in his longest outing in 15 major league appearances. The 23-year-old right-hander retired 14 straight before Ryan McMahon reached on a two-out infield single in the seventh.

Pirates 5, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Trevor Williams pitched six effective innings and drove in two runs, helping Pittsburgh beat sloppy Cincinnati.

Williams picked up where he left off last season, when he was the only major leaguer to make 10 starts of at least six innings without allowing a run. The right-hander gave up three hits, struck out six and walked one.

Athletics 2, Angels 1

In Oakland, Athletics slugger Khris Davis homered for the fourth time in six games, and Frankie Montas pitched into the seventh inning.

Marcus Semien and Matt Chapman had two hits apiece for the A's, who took three of four from the Angels after getting swept by Seattle in a two-game series in Tokyo to start the season.

Red Sox, Bogaerts agree at $132M through 2025

BOSTON (AP)—Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts has agreed to terms on a new contract that would keep him in Boston through 2025 and guarantee him $132 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Sunday night.

Bogaerts will earn $12 million this year under the terms of his existing deal and then $20 million for each of the next six seasons, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced.

Another person familiar with the deal told the AP the deal includes a team option for 2026 at $20 million, which becomes guaranteed if he has 535 plate appearances in 2025. Bogaerts also has an opt-out clause after 2022.

The talks were first reported by WEEI.

Bogaerts hit .288 last year and set career bests with 23 homers and 103 RBIs while helping the Red Sox win a franchise-record 108 games in the regular season and a World Series championship. The 26-year-old native of Aruba finished 13th in the AL MVP voting.

It's the second time in eight days the team has made a big commitment to a player that helped it win a third straight AL East title and fourth World Series since 2004. Left-hander Chris Sale signed a deal that will guarantee him $160 million over the next six seasons.

Reigning AL MVP Mookie Betts is eligible for salary arbitration after this season and for free agency after 2020, when he will be still be just 28. He will earn $20 million this year.

Federer tops Isner in Miami, wins 101st title

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Orange streamers rained down while Roger Federer held another championship trophy aloft, his familiar grin as wide as ever.

For the ageless Federer, winning never gets old.

Now 37, Federer became tennis' first repeat champion of 2019 when he won his 101st career title Sunday by beating a hobbled John Isner in the Miami Open final, 6-1, 6-4.

Federer neutralized Isner's big serve and won 32 of 35 points on his own serve. The 6-foot-10 Isner scrambled so desperately to stay in rallies that he hurt his left foot and limped badly through the final few points.

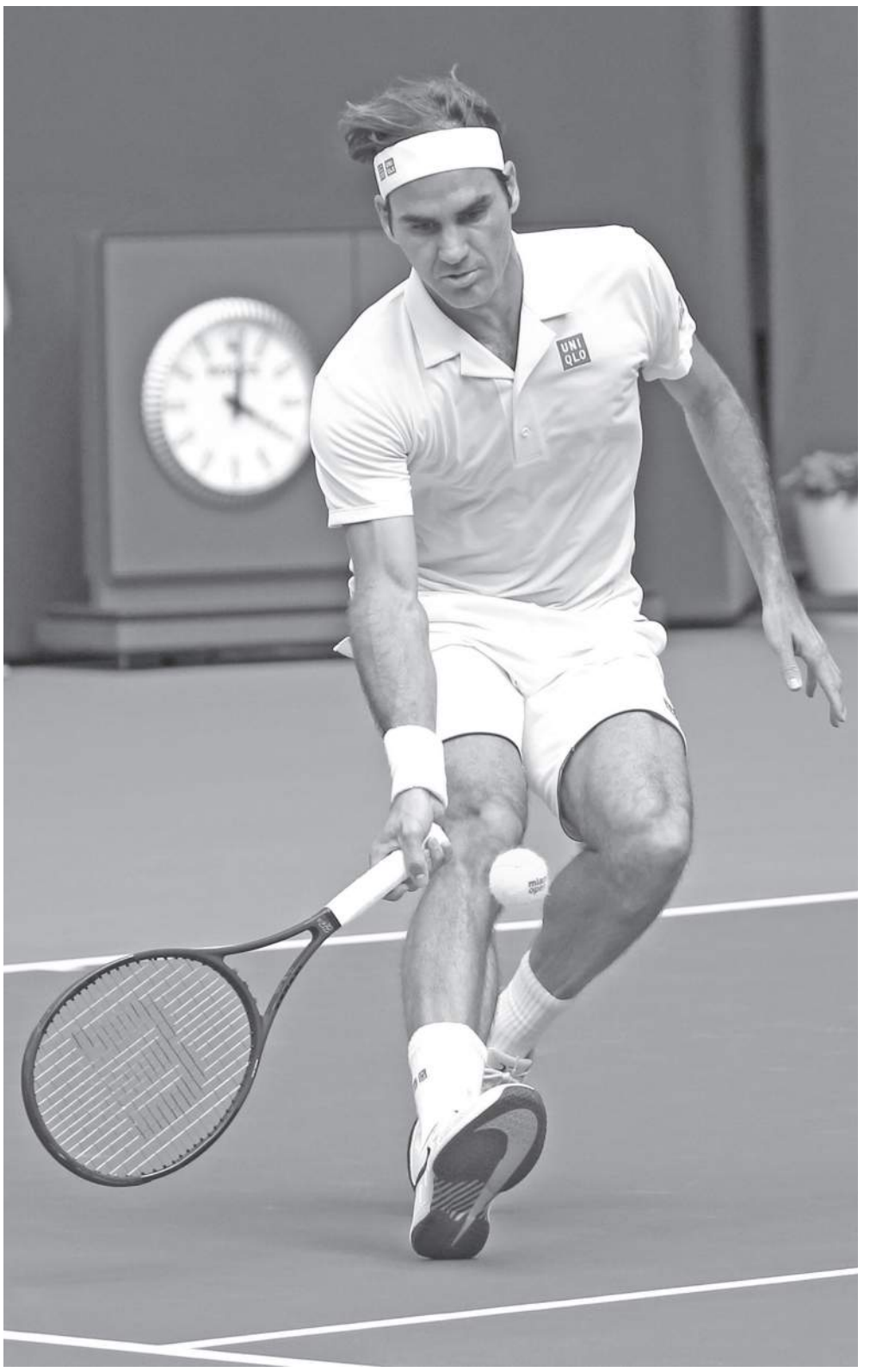
Isner said afterward he didn't yet know the nature or severity of the injury.

Federer, by contrast, is just fine. He was the Dubai champion on March 2, and runner-up to Dominic Thiem at Indian Wells two weeks ago.

"This is a good phase, a good stretch for me right now," Federer said. "I really feel super healthy. That's why I have been able to play every day for the last four weeks. That's something that maybe hasn't always been the case for the last few years. So you appreciate these moments."

Federer is 18-2 this year, best on the men's tour, which stamps him as a threat to add to his record total of 20 Grand Slam titles in 2019.

"Unbelievable for you to keep winning and playing this level of tennis," Miami tournament director James Blake, a former top-five player, told Federer at the trophy presentation. "It makes me feel like such an underachiever. We're all just in awe."



AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland returns to John Isner during the singles final of the Miami Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 31, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla. Federer won, 6-1, 6-4.

Isner also paid tribute to Federer during the ceremony.

"You were entirely too good today, entirely too good this whole tournament," Isner said. "You are entirely too good your whole career. It's absolutely incredible what you're doing. We're so lucky to have you in this game, and we all want you to keep playing and literally never retire. So keep it up, man."

The first 33 men's and women's titles in 2019 were won by 33 different players, including Ashleigh Barty in the Miami women's final Saturday. Federer is the first repeat winner in 20 men's tournaments this year.

"Kind of fitting," Isner said.

Federer first played in the Miami tournament as a wild card 20 years ago. He won the title in 2005, 2006 and 2017 before it moved from Key Biscayne to its new home this year in the Dolphins' complex.

"It has been a super long journey for me here," Federer told the crowd. "To stand here right now really means a lot after so many years."

The temporary stands inside the NFL stadium were almost full for the final, but Federer quickly defused any drama. He broke in the opening game and then twice more in a first set that lasted only 24 minutes.

"Champion, Roger!" one fan yelled during a lull, prompting cheers. Federer went on to earn the adjective yet again.

To complicate matters for Isner, he said the top of his foot started to hurt during the first set, and the problem grew worse as the match progressed.

"It's a terrible feeling," Isner said, "going up against the greatest player ever, playing in this incredible atmosphere, and my foot's killing me.

"Not that I would have won the match anyway. Let's make that clear. But, you know, I think I could have made for a more interesting match, and one that was a little more fun."

Federer said he felt badly for Isner but didn't let that affect his game.

"It was just important to keep on doing what I was doing, and if he's hurt, well, then so be it, and bad luck for him," Federer said. "After the game, of course, you hope it's nothing serious ."

While Isner may need time to heal, Federer will begin preparations for the clay court season, which he skipped last year. He'll play Madrid in May as a tuneup for the French Open.

"I'm not very confident going into this clay court season, I can tell you that, because I don't even remember how to slide anymore," Federer said. "I'm taking baby steps at this point. I'm very excited. It's a good challenge, a good test. Confidence? It's in no man's land."

In tennis, no man's land is the area around the service line. Federer hits lots of winners from there.

Warriors clinch 5th straight Pacific title

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 25 points with five 3-pointers and the Golden State Warriors beat Charlotte 137-90 on Sunday night to clinch their fifth straight Pacific Division title and hand the Hornets their worst loss of the season.

Curry has made five or more 3s in a career-best eight straight games. He has 335 so far, his second-most in a season behind the NBA-record 402 he hit in 2015-16.

Klay Thompson scored Golden State's initial nine points and finished with 24 and six 3s. Curry and Thompson combined to shoot 11 for 17 from deep and 17 of 30 overall. Quinn Cook added 21 points off the bench.

Willy Hernangomez scored 22 points—14 on free throws—for the Hornets. Charlotte leading scorer and All-Star Kemba Walker was held to nine points for his third game of the season not reaching double figures.

Mavericks 106, Thunder 103

In Oklahoma City, Trey Burke had 25 points and eight assists, Dwight Powell scored the winning basket on a dunk with 21 seconds left and Dallas, playing without star rookie Luka Doncic, stunned the Thunder.

Jalen Brunson had 18 points, Devin Harris added 15 and Dirk Nowitzki—playing perhaps his final game in Oklahoma City—grabbed a season-high 13 rebounds to go with seven points for the Mavericks.

Russell Westbrook had 25 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his 30th triple-double of the season and Paul George had 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder, who had sealed a Western Conference playoff spot Saturday when the Sacramento Kings lost.

Hawks 136, Bucks 135, OT

In Atlanta, Trae Young grabbed a deflected inbounds pass and made a last-second jumper to lift the Hawks over short-handed Milwaukee.

Justin Anderson had 24 points and 12 rebounds for Atlanta, and John Collins finished with 23 points and 12 boards. Alex Len also scored 23 points. Young finished with 12 points and 16 assists.

Sterling Brown scored 27 points for Milwaukee, including a go-ahead layup with 1.1 seconds remaining in overtime.

The Bucks played without Giannis Antetokounmpo and Khris Middleton. Antetokounmpo, one of the favorites for the NBA MVP award, was held out due to right ankle sprain. Middleton has a sore groin.

Lakers 130, Pelicans 102

In New Orleans, Alex Caruso scored a career-high 23 points in his 20th NBA game of the season, and Los Angeles beat the Pelicans.

JaVale McGee had 23 points and 16 rebounds, and former Pelican Rajon Rondo added 24 points and 12 assists for Los Angeles in a game missing both teams' biggest stars: the Lakers' LeBron James and the Pelicans' Anthony Davis.

Former Laker Julius Randle scored 17 points for New Orleans in 23 minutes before leaving to have an X-ray on his left index finger, which the team said came back negative.

Christian Wood, acquired recently by New Orleans after Milwaukee placed him on waivers, had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Wizards 95, Nuggets 90

In Denver, Tony Brown Jr. scored 24 points, Thomas Bryant and Jabari Parker each had 20, and Washington held the Nuggets to just 28 points in the second half.

Nikola Jokic had 23 points and 14 rebounds for Denver, which lost for the third time in five games and saw its lead in the Northwest Division over Portland cut to three games.

The loss came at price for Denver. Starting point guard Jamal Murray left the game in the third quarter with a sprained left ankle and didn't return. Murray missed six games from Jan. 26-Feb. 4 with a left ankle sprain.

Kings 113, Spurs 106

In San Antonio, Buddy Hield scored 26 points and Sacramento snapped an 11-game skid in San Antonio.

Willie Cauley-Stein added 17 points and all of Sacramento's starters scored in double figures. Bogdan Bogdanovic added 15 points off the bench.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 17 rebounds as San Antonio lost for the fourth time in six games. DeMar DeRozan finished with 16 points and Rudy Gay had 18. The Spurs remained seventh in the Western Conference.

Clippers 113, Grizzlies 96

In Los Angeles, Danilo Gallinari had 27 points and 15 rebounds, and the Clippers routed Memphis for its league-leading 13th win in 15 games.

The Clippers closed March with the NBA's best record at 13-2, tying the highest winning percentage in the month in team history set in 2014.

Montrezl Harrell added 20 points, making 10 of 11 free throws, and Lou Williams had 17 points for the Clippers.

The injury-riddled Grizzlies lost Jonas Valanciunas with 6:16 left in the third quarter. He appeared to hurt his right leg going for a rebound. Valanciunas finished with nine points and seven rebounds.

Carol reaches highest world ranking

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After conquering the ITF/CAT North African Circuit, the CNMI's Carol Lee climbed up to No. 119 in the Juniors ITF world ranking—her highest since joining the elite group in 2015.

Lee, whose previous highest ranking was at No. 163 in August last year, topped the Grade 3 tournament held in Casablanca, Morocco last month to earn 100 ranking points. She entered her second tournament in the African country ranked No. 170 and made the big leap after pulling off an upset in the finals against No.1 seed Aubane Droguet of France, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 7-6 (6).

The Commonwealth now has 345 ranking points in singles and 184 in doubles for a combined 391 points.

Meanwhile, Lee played in his last tournament in Morocco last week and made it to the quarterfinals of another Grade 3 event.

She defeated Bosnia and Herzegovina's Milica Bojic, 2-6, 6-1, 6-3, in the first round of the Raquette D'Or J3 Mohhamedia at the clay court of the Royale Tennis Club de Mohammedia Boite Postale. Then in the second round, Lee swept France's Maelle Leclercq, 6-3, 6-4, to move into the quarterfinals. The Commonwealth bet was pitted against another French player in the Round of 16 with Juline Fayard winning, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

In the doubles, Lee partnered with Nigeria's Barakat Quadre and they lost to Morocco's Yasmine Kabbaj and Salma Loudili in the opening round, 6-4, 5-7, 8-10.

After her competition in Morocco, Lee is heading to Europe to play in Belgium and Italy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here playing in the 2019 Australian Open Juniors, is now ranked No. 119 in the world.

KONQER announces 'Apocalypse Tour'

KONQER, the region's only multi-country obstacle course circuit, has announced the zombie-themed 2019 "Apocalypse Tour" as a special edition event series, according to KONQER chief experience officer Kaz Endo.

For the 2019 event, KONQER is also offering free entries to all 17 and under, as well as free participation in the run portion of the course for all ages.

"Our 2019 event series will be an epic experience for thousands of our KONQER Brigade," said Endo. "As a way to further our mission to promote wellness through play, and encourage more family and youth participation, we are thankful to be able to offer free entries to all kids age 17 and under, with the help of our generous sponsors."

The first event in the 2019 series, called "Survive" will kick off on April 27 on Saipan, and registration is open at konqersports.com with adult registration starting as low as $25 per person. Guam's event, "Defend", is scheduled for July 7, and Palau's two-day event "Attack" will take place on Nov. 23 and 24 .

"From our original humble debut in Guam in 2015 as the region's first large-scale obstacle course, KONQER is entering its fifth year and now spans the Marianas and the Republic of Palau," said KONQER president Kelli Wedd. "As a way to mark the milestone of our 10th event, we wanted to give our KONQER Brigade a memorable event that still incorporates all of the obstacle course challenges they have enjoyed at our events for the past five years."

Each country will have different obstacles and challenges as each location provides a unique destination to configure the race format. Visit konqersports.com or email support@konqersports.com for more event details.

KONQER Saipan is presented by Marianas Visitors Authority and sponsored by Bank of Guam, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Coors Light, Roil Soil, Saipan Brewing Company, Tribe Marianas, Vantage Advertising, GoPro, and TriVision Media Group. ***(PR)***

SAKOVICH

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ues to inspire us and motivate our swimmers. It was pretty cool to have him around here—this time as a swimmer, not an organizer," Winkfield said.

Joining Sakovich on the first-timers list were off-island athletes that just completed the 30th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday.

Among them was the Philippines' Fernando Jose Casares Tan, who timed in at 33:51 to place second behind SSC swimmer Jinnosuke Suzuki (33:34). Jinnosuke's older brother, Lennosuke, rounded out the Top 3

Other Tagaman finishers who tried out SSC's open water swim were Kaon Cho (42:13), Jihyuk Yang (42:15), Maria Hodges (42:35), Stephanie Ng (45:41), Nestor Gonzales (48:18), Byung Geun Lee (51:21), and Jae Hong Kim (52:54).

Hodges was the second female finisher behind SSC's Sophia Gauran and Jinju Thompson, who had similar times of 41:19), while Ng was third.

MT. CARMEL

From Page 28

After being limited to 4 points in the second canto, GCA's offense turned from bad to worse, allowing Mt. Carmel to pull away further. The Lady Knights, on the other hand, got their acts together anew with Diaz scoring 5 points and Hyo Lim Cho, Joanie Paraiso, and Franchesca Bucalig also hitting their targets to lift Mt. Carmel to a 21-6 advantage, heading into the last quarter.

Behind by double digits, the Lady Eagles came back to life in the fourth quarter with Tina Choi and Jasmine Phan teaming up for 10 points. However, the Lady Knights would not be denied, as Chinen, Diaz, and Han also countered with timely baskets to help Mt. Carmel secure the coveted division crown.

Diaz led all scorers with her 8 points, while Franchesca Bucalig and Han chipped in with 4 apiece. Han earned the CCOPSA Championship MVP medal after showing leadership and having significant contributions to the Lady Knights' offense and defense in the season' finale.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Mt. Carmel School coach Mark Toves and his players huddle after defeating Grace Christian Academy in the finals of the CCOPSA caging last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

"The MVP award that I received should also be awarded to every single player on my team [because] basketball is a team sport," Han said. "Without a team and sportsmanship, we would not win championships."

"It was a great honor to take the championship title," the MCS captain added. "Most especially, we are very proud to continue the [championship] legacy of our AlumKnights. Our Mount Carmel Lady Knights fight extremely hard for the championship title every year, and we wanted to make those before us proud by continuing what they've started."

After the game, Han acknowledged her team's mentors and support network for the perennial success of the Lady Knights' basketball program.

"Our success would not have been possible without our coaches—Mark and Catherine Toves—and the spiritual support from our MCS students, faculty, and family," Han said.

MCS 1 26 —Diaz 8, Chinen 4, Fr. Bucalig 4, Han 4, Cho 2, Fi. Bucalig 2, Paraiso 2

GCA 18—Choi 6, Phan 6, Lamar 2, Saures 2, Seo.

Scoring by quarters: 0-2, 10-6, 21-6, 26-18.

TAMIO

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ed out to the course a few minutes after eventual champion Yu Shinozaki crossed the finish line. Then more than an hour later, Sato came, smiling, and raising both his arms in triumph.

Sato, McKagan, and Nishikido had a combined time of 3:46:19, nearly three minutes ahead of Team JPK (3:49:10). Jinju Thompson did the swim leg for the runner-up team in the mixed relay division and clocked in at 25:26—the third fastest in the relay field behind 11-year-old Isaiah Aleksenko (22:30) and TRAC 1's Farah Master (24:44). Philip Gauang was Team JPK's biker and submitted 2:04:08, while Church wrapped it up for the squad after posting 1:19:36.

Team Sakura (3:59:39) of swimmer Shuji Kurada (38:14), biker Andrew Estepa (2:06:05) and runner Sakiko Eda (1:15:20) rounded out the Top 3 in the mixed relay division.

In the men's relay, Aleksenko gave MV Team, which also had biker Renato Barros and runner Vhoie Francia as members, a strong start as the former was third overall out of the water (behind two male pros). The Tsunami Saipan swimmer handed MV Team a more than 13-minute lead over eventual top finisher Team Ang Pogi before settling for third place, after Barros and Francia clocked in at 2:12:31 and 1:36:17, respectively.

Team Ang Pogi, which had swimmer Clark Boswell (35:40), biker Raymund Tolentino (2:02:06), and runner Alex Hammet (1:28:11), registered 4:05:57 to rule their division. Mark Chavez (31:09), Butch Sublemente (2:00:49), and Enrique Evangelista (1:35:17) of TAGAI-MAN 2 completed the Top 3 after recording 4:07:15.

In the women's relay, Fuetsan Famalao'an of swimmer Pilar Shimizu (27:14) and biker/runner Jenn Camacho (2:07:59/1:38:26) came out on top after registering 4:13:19. Just The TRI of Us (Jessica Dayrit, Cheryl Sung and Anasa Lisa Salazar) and It's Not Going To Be Pretty (Janet King and Stephanie Boutsicaris) made it to the podium, too after clocking in at 4:36:32 and 5:15:07, respectively.

Meanwhile other finishers in the relay race were APHI Team (Patholo Joab, Wilfredo Barbo, and Elena Gersonde/4:06:04); Father and Son (Yu Hun, Hee Chan, and Hee Mang Park /4:25:08); An Anchor, Two Flat Tires, and A Rocket (Anthony Raho/Jhoel Phair, and Kaylee Heath/4:25:33); Gangbuk Junior (Yongbin Yun, Insang Lee, Byungon Lee/4:30:13); Reindeers (Sarah Vander Wal, Romel Riosejo, and Joel Freeman.4:30:24); Team Hyatt (Gino Libuw, Bobby Vargas, and Dionny Peralta/4:31:15); Kraken (Chenxuan Yang, Teng Zhang, and Zehua Chen/4:36:58); TAGAI-MAN 1 (Kaithlynn Chavez, James Abuy, and Romel Bartolo/4:43:49); Agape Sword (Arthur Liang, Caleb Dai, and Simon Shan/4:51:49); TRAC 1 (Master, Ruben Chappins, and Aris Oris/5:09:52); and Kanoa (Tamery William, Roy Jagadish, and Amalia Hernandez/5:10:36).

Michigan State knocks off Zion-led Duke

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yelich ties MLB record, lifts Brewers over Cards

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Mt. Carmel extends reign

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Mt. Carmel School's Quincy Chinen takes off for a running shot during their title game against Grace Christian Academy in the CCOPSA caging last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School claimed its sixth consecutive championship after outclassing Grace Christian Academy, 26-18, in the girls finale of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Lady Knights recovered from a poor start and held the Lady Eagles scoreless in the third quarter en route to extending their reign in the division.

Mt. Carmel, which failed to light up the board in the opening quarter, employed a full court, man-to-man defense against GCA in the second canto to catch the Eagles by surprise. GCA went on to commit turnovers, while Fiona Bucalig, Franchesca Bucalig, Kalyn Diaz, Louisa Han, and Quincy Chinen cashed in on the Lady Eagles' shaky handles and passing errors to put the Knights on top, 10-6.

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Sakovich makes first 'Escape'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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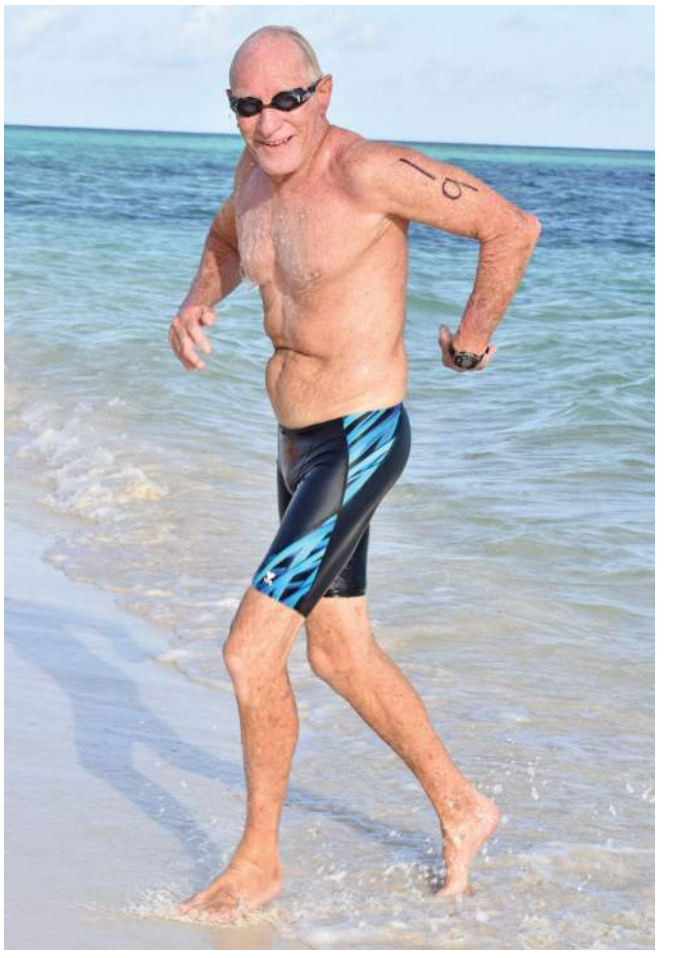
REPORTER

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer and Saipan Swim Club co-founder Bill Sakovich joined 40 others in completing last Sunday's 2019 Escape from Managaha.

"It was my first time to do the race. The water was a bit choppy on the way to the channel and there's a strong wind towards the end, but other than that, it was a fun race," said Sakovich, who missed the early editions of the 2.4-kilometer crossing from Saipan's famous island to Micro Beach, as he had already moved to Hawaii when the event first started in 2003.

"It's nice to see old and new faces doing ocean swims or helping out as volunteers," he added after reuniting with former CNMI swimmers Seung Gin Lee, Colin Thompson, Jacoby Winkfield, and Kristy Springer. Lee, Winkfield, and Springer volunteered as paddlers, guiding the "escapees" during the race.

Winkfield said SSC is honored to have one of its founders (the other one was Bill's wife, Jeanne) in last weekend's event. Sakovich, who is in his late 70s, completed the crossing in less than an hour (57:40).



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club co-founder Bill Sakovich heads out of the water to complete last Sunday's Escape from Managaha.

"At his age, he remains active in swimming. He contin-

See SAKOVICH on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Kosuke Sato, Kimiko McKagan, and Tamio Nishikido, pose at the finish line after ruling the mixed relay race of last Saturday's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

Tamio Club leads relay finishers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tamio Club snuck from behind to finish first overall in the relay event of last Saturday's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

Kosuke Sato anchored Tamio Club to victory after passing several runners on his way back to the finish line at Kilili Beach and completing the 15-kilometer course in 1:08:15—the fastest in their division and more than 11 minutes ahead of the finisher (Kaden Church) of runner-up Team JPK.

Sato teamed up with swimmer Tamio Nishikido and biker Kimiko McKagan. Nishido timed in at 34:28 in the two-kilometer swim in the waters off Kilili Beach for 10th place overall in the relay division. McKagan was up next for Tamio Club and wrapped up the 60K-bike race that brought riders to as far as Banzai Cliff up north at the Airport Road down south and back to Kilili Beach in 2:03:26. She placed at the top half of the 20 bikers entered in the relay and when she made it to the bike-run transition area, at least five runners in the team event had already made their way out to the course to head to the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park via Beach Road.

Sato, who had repeated warm-up runs while waiting for his turn to race, finally head-

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